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THE
BRITISH ESSAYISTS:

WITH
PREFACES,
HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL,

BY
A. CHALMERS, F. S. A.

VOLUME XXIV.

BOSTON:
LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY.
M.DCCC.LVI.

RIVERSIDE, CAMBRIDGE:
STEREOTYPED AND PRINTED BY
H. O. HOUGHTON AND COMPANY.

PR
1361
135
1855
V. 24

WORLD.

- Facta est immensi copia Mundi.

OVID. MET. ii. 157.

No. 138—209,

AND EXTRA WORLD.

dup. ex add. et CC

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THE WORLD.

No. 138. THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1755.

FOR several weeks past I have been considering with myself how I might extend the use and entertainment of these my labours ; for though thousands of my countrymen have experienced, and are ready to attest their salutary effects, yet it cannot be denied but there are still people to be met with who are by no means as wise and as good as they ought to be. General satire, as I have formerly observed, is what few people care to apply to themselves ; and though I have hitherto been averse to particular and personal abuse, I am at last willing to try its effect, well knowing, that if the good which may accrue from it be but in the proportion of one in a million to the entertainment it gives, I shall have reason to bless myself for thus quarrelling with the world. I am sensible, also, that by adopting this method I am increasing the number of my correspondents, as every one will be for trying his hand on so delightful a subject as the failings of his friends ; especially when I shall have given him my honour that he need be under no apprehensions for his safety, and that I will take every quarrel upon myself. I therefore hereby invite all persons, what-

soever, to transmit to me forthwith all the scandal they can either collect or invent. Names, and particularly great ones, will be very acceptable; or, in default of such names, minute descriptions of persons, their alliances, and connections, or the streets they live in, will be equally agreeable. Great regard will be paid to the letters of female correspondents; but it is humbly hoped that they will not suffer the copiousness and enticement of the subject to hurry them into lengths that may exceed the bounds of this paper.

I am sensible that a great deal of courage, and an equal degree of dexterity at single rapier, will be necessary on this occasion; but, as I said before, I am contented to take the whole upon myself rather than lay my correspondents under any restraint; my name is Adam Fitz-Adam; I am to be heard of every morning at the Tilt-yard coffee-house, and, though an old man, shall be ready to give any gentleman satisfaction, who chooses to call upon me in a hackney-coach, and frank me to Hyde-park or Montague-house.

To extend the usefulness of this paper still further, it is my intention, notwithstanding any former declaration to the contrary, to mix politics with slander. I am, in a manner, compelled to make this second alteration in my plan from a thorough conviction that no man in these kingdoms is such a master of politics as myself; and, as a war with France seems now to be inevitable, I shall, from time to time, instruct our ministers in what manner to conduct it, and shall hope for an exact compliance with every plan I shall lay before them. This will be saving a great deal of trouble and perplexity to the common people of England, who, though always ready to instruct an administration, are some-

times so divided in their opinions, that the said administration are forced to pursue their own measures for want of plain and punctual instructions from their friends.

The better to carry on this laudable design, I shall direct what bills are proper to be brought into parliament, and what acts I would have repealed. I shall also devote three mornings in every week to the private instruction of all such ministers and members of parliament as are desirous of conferring with me at my lodgings, up two pairs of stairs at the Trunk-maker's in St. Martin's Lane. I shall, likewise, be ready to answer all questions in politics to such gentlemen and ladies as would willingly investigate that science without study or application. This will tend greatly to the edification of all justices of the peace, nurses, midwives, country curates, and parish clerks, whose ideas seem at present to be a little confused, for want of a thorough knowledge of the interests and connections of the several states of Europe, and how the balance of power is to be maintained. I shall keep a watchful eye over the King of France and his ministers, and will give timely notice of any intended invasions, and direct measures to defeat such invasions in proper time. I shall find means of instructing the other powers of Europe in their true and natural interests, and will communicate in this paper the intelligence I shall from time to time receive from the said powers; so that the public shall always be apprised, beforehand, of the measures they intended to take.

When I consider the vast utility of this, my undertaking, I cannot be too thankful for the abilities I am blessed with for carrying it on to the universal satisfaction of all parties. My humanity is, I confess, a little hurt, by reflecting that while I am thus

making a monopoly of politics and slander, I am doing an injury to those of my brother authors, who have long lived by dealing out their occasional portions of those commodities. But I am comforted, upon second thoughts, that, as this paper is published once a week, they will have continued opportunities of enriching their own larger compositions with the most shining parts of it; and this they shall have free leave to do, provided that they add no conjectures of their own, or pretend to doubt the superiority of my abilities, whereby disputes may be raised upon any of those facts which I shall think proper to advance. The same indulgence is hereby given to all writers or compilers of country newspapers in Great Britain and Ireland; for, as I have only the good of my country at heart, I am desirous of extending these my labours to the remotest parts of his Majesty's dominions. I shall also have this further satisfaction, that the general complaint of the country's being deserted of inhabitants every winter may cease; as, by means of this circulation, every private gentleman may reside constantly at his seat, and every clergyman at his living, without being obliged once a year to pay a visit to London, in order to study politics and instruct the administration.

But a much greater advantage than any yet mentioned remains still to be told. The circulation of this paper will not be confined to Great Britain and Ireland; it will, doubtless, be demanded in all the courts, cities, and large towns of Europe; by which means our enemies on the continent find the superiority of our wisdom, and knowing by whom our counsellors are counselled, will sue to us for peace upon our own terms. In the mean time, as we are entering into a war not of our own seeking, but

merely in defence of our commerce and for the protection and support of our undoubted rights, I shall direct the administration how to raise such supplies as may enable us to carry it on with vigour and success; and this I hope to effect to everybody's satisfaction, which, I humbly apprehend, has not always been the case.

I am well aware that there are certain superficial persons in the world who may fancy that they have not discovered in my writings, hitherto, these marvellous abilities to which I am now laying claim. To all such I shall only answer, let the event decide, for I have always thought it beneath me to boast of talents superior to other men, till the necessity of the times compels me to produce them. Those who know me, will say of me what modesty forbids I should say of myself; indeed, it has been owing to a very uncommon degree of that sheepish quality, that I have not let my readers into many secrets of myself, that would have amazed and confounded them.

I have undertaken politics and slander at the same time, from a constant observation that there is a certain connection between those sciences, which it is difficult to break through. But I intend to vary from the common method, and shall sometimes write politics without abuse, and abuse without politics. It may be feared, perhaps, that as I have hitherto received no reward for the great candour with which I have treated the administration during the course of this paper, I may incline to direct wrong measures out of pure spite; but I can assure my readers that such fears are groundless; I have nothing at heart but the public good, and shall propose no measures but such as are most apparently conducive to the honour and glory of my native country.

In treating of these measures, I shall build nothing upon hypothesis, but will go mathematically to work, and reduce every thing to demonstration. For instance, if the war is only to be a naval one, I would instruct our minister, as a certain ingenious painter is said to draw, by the triangle. As thus: The end of the war is an advantageous peace. Now suppose any triangle, equilateral or otherwise, where A shall signify the English fleet, B the French fleet, and C the above peace; the solution then will be no more than this, let the fleet A take the fleet B, and you produce the peace C. The same solution will do in a land war, where A and B may stand for armies instead of fleets.

Having now sufficiently explained myself upon this important occasion, I shall take leave of my readers till next Thursday, at which time, unless I should see reason to the contrary, I shall present them with a paper either of scandal or politics, which shall be to all their satisfactions.

No. 139. THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1755.

I HAVE judged it proper to postpone politics to another week, that I may oblige my readers with a piece of scandal, or whatever else they may please to call it, which has but just transpired, and which will quickly engage the conversation of all the best families in town and country. Those who are unacquainted with the parties concerned, will, I hope,

excuse me for publishing only the initial letters of their names, or sometimes no letters at all; their high rank, and the honourable offices they bear, demanding from me a little more complaisance than I may probably show to meaner persons. At the same time I should be sorry to have it thought, that my tenderness upon this occasion arose from any selfish considerations of the consequences that might ensue; the sword of a man of quality is no longer than that of another man, nor, for any thing I have observed, is he a jot more dexterous at drawing a trigger. My moderation proceeds from the great respect which is due from persons in humble situations to men of high and illustrious birth; though at the same time I must take the liberty of declaring, that one or two stories more of the same nature with what I am now going to relate, will entirely cancel my regards, and incline me to treat them with the freedom of an equal.

Every body knows, at least every body in genteel life, that the match between Lord *** and Miss G—— was brought about by the old earl and the young lady's aunt; at whose house my lord unfortunately saw, and fell desperately in love with Miss L——, who was a distant relation of the aunt, and who happened to be there upon a visit at the time of his lordship's courtship to the niece. The character of Miss L—— is too notorious to require a place in this narrative; though I must do her the justice to own that I believe every art to undo a woman was practised upon her before she was prevailed upon to give up her honour to a man whom she knew to be the destined husband of her most intimate friend.

Those who knew of the affair between my lord and Miss L—— endeavoured, by every possible

method, to dissuade Miss G—— from the match ; and, indeed, if that unfortunate young lady had not preferred a title to happiness, she had treated his lordship as he deserved, from a thorough conviction that he had already bestowed his affections upon Miss L——. But a union of hearts is by no means necessary in the marriages of the great. My lord and the old earl saw a thousand charms in Miss G——'s large fortune ; and the young lady and her aunt saw every thing in a title that could be wished for in the married state. The ceremony was performed, soon after, at the earl's house ; and the young couple, though perfectly indifferent to each other, conducted themselves so prudently in all companies that those who did not know them intimately believed them to be very happy people.

The old earl dying soon after, my lord succeeded to the estate and title of ***, and lived with his lady in all the magnificence and splendour which his large income could afford. His lordship had a considerable mortgage on the estate of Sir O—— S—— ; and it was under pretence of settling some affairs with that gentleman, at his brother's seat near St. Alban's, that he set out at the beginning of this month upon the expedition which has, unhappily, turned out so fatal to his peace. Colonel S. ***, a gentleman too well known for his gallantries among the ladies to need the initial letter of his name, was to be of his lordship's party ; and though my lord had two sets of horses of his own, yet, for certain reasons which may hereafter be guessed at, he hired a coach and six at Tubbs's, and set out on the Tuesday for St. Alban's, with intention, as was given out, to return on the Thursday following.

I should have informed my readers that Lady *** and the young Viscountess D——, who was said to

have a *tendre* for the colonel, were to meet them in the viscountess's coach at Barnet, on their return home, and that they were all to dine together at the Green Man. It was said, I know, that doctor *** who is a man of family, was of the lady's party; he had been an intimate acquaintance, and some say a lover of Miss G——, before her marriage with Lord ***. The doctor is a man much more famous for his wit and address than his practice; and is thought to be the author of a late extraordinary performance, which however celebrated, in my humble opinion, reflects more honour on his invention than either on his knowledge in politics or his character as a moral man. But I will avoid circumstances, and be as short as I can.

Doctor ***, though he lives at St. James's end of the town, had been several times in that week at Batson's and Child's coffee-houses, and had drank chocolate with Sir E—— H—— the very Thursday that Lord *** and the colonel were to return from St. Alban's to meet Lady *** and the viscountess at the Green Man, at Barnet. Many people are of opinion that the doctor was not of the party, but that he received his intelligence from one H—y who had formerly been a steward of Lord ***. But H—y denies the fact, and lays the whole mischief on Lady ***'s woman, who, it seems, had been housekeeper to the doctor when he lived in the square. There are strange reports of the doctor and this woman; but whether she or H—y was the contriver of this villany, will appear hereafter. H—y is a man of a very indifferent character, and, I am not afraid of saying it, capable of undertaking any mischief whatsoever.

Lady *** and the viscountess, according to agreement, set out on Thursday at one o'clock for Bar-

net, and came to the Green Man, which was the place appointed for dining. My lord and the colonel not being arrived, the viscountess recollected that she had an acquaintance in the neighbourhood, at about two miles distance, whom she proposed visiting in a postchaise, under pretence of saving her own horses. As this acquaintance of the viscountess was a stranger to Lady ***, her ladyship declined going with her friend, and agreed to amuse herself with a book of novels till her return, or till the arrival of my lord and the colonel, which was every moment expected. The viscountess stepped immediately into the postchaise; and soon after, as Lady *** was looking out of the window of the inn, she saw a coach and six drive by very hastily towards London; and the landlord declares that he saw Lord ***, and the colonel, and two ladies in the coach, muffled up in cloaks. He also declares that Lady *** called out three times for the coach to stop, but that no one answered, and the coachman drove out of sight in a few minutes.

I should have taken notice before, that as soon as the viscountess was gone upon her visit, as Lady *** was sitting at the window next the road, the captain in quarters took great notice of her, and said to the chambermaid, in her ladyship's hearing, that he would give up a whole year's pay to pass the afternoon with so fine a creature; upon which Lady *** frowned upon him very severely, and began a smart conversation with him on his boldness and presumption.

The viscountess, to the great surprise of Lady ***, did not return till near six in the evening, and seemed in great confusion while she endeavoured to apologize for her absence. But as Lady *** was convinced that her lord was in the coach that drove

so hastily towards London, she declared positively that she would not stir a step from the inn till he returned to fetch her; and insisted on the viscountess's going immediately to inform him of her resolution. The viscountess accordingly set out; and the captain was seen going up stairs soon after. But whether Lord *** returned that night, or whether it was really his lordship's coach that passed by, is uncertain; however, Lady *** has been missing ever since; and yesterday a lady was found drowned in Rosamond's pond, who is suspected to be her; for though Lady *** was a thin woman, and wore a chintz gown that day, and the person taken out of the pond appeared to be fat, and was dressed in white; yet it is thought that, by lying a long time under water, the body may be very much swelled, and the colours of the linen entirely discharged. One thing is certain, that Lord *** is like a man distracted; the doctor, the steward, and my lady's woman, are taken into custody; and the colonel and the viscountess are fled nobody knows whither.

I shall leave my readers to make their own comments on this unhappy affair; which I have brought into as short a compass as I was able, with truth and perspicuity. I am sensible that where names occur so often, and those only marked with asterisks or initial letters, it is a very difficult matter to avoid confusion; and indeed I should hardly have thought myself perfectly clear, if I had not communicated my narrative to a country acquaintance of mine, a man totally ignorant of the whole affair. who was pleased to assure me that he never met with any thing so plain and intelligible. I have been the more circumstantial upon this occasion, from a desire of pointing out, in the most perspicu-

ous manner, the leading steps of this fatal catastrophe; for I am not satisfied with entertaining my readers with the frailties and misfortunes of persons of quality, unless I can warn them, by their example, against falling into the like errors.

No. 140. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1755.

THE report of the king of France's having lately forbidden the coffee-houses at Paris to take in any English newspapers, was no more than I expected, after having, in *The World* of last Thursday was se'night, so plainly and openly declared my intentions of making all men politicians. But though his most Christian Majesty has thought proper to keep his subjects in the dark as to the science of politics, yet I hear, with pleasure, that his emissaries in this city are buying up large numbers of these my lucubrations for the private perusal of that monarch and his ministers, and that a council is ordered to attend the reading of them as soon as they arrive. But, for very good reasons, I have thought proper to change my intentions, and not meddle with matters of state; at least, for the present. Indeed, to confess the truth, I have lately received full conviction that, great as my knowledge is in politics, there are those at the head of affairs that know to the full as much as myself. Success is not always in our power; but if we are really to enter into a war with France, I have the pleasure

of assuring the common people of England that they may depend upon its being as well conducted as if they had the entire management of it in their own hands, or even if I myself was to preside at all their meetings for settling plans and operations.

This and other reasons have inclined me, for the present, to lay aside politics, and to go on in the old way, mending hearts instead of heads, or furnishing such amusements as may fix the attention of the idle, or divert the schemes of the vicious, for at least five minutes every week. Of this kind is the following little piece, which I received some time since from a very ingenious correspondent, who entitles it:—

“A MEDITATION AMONG THE BOOKS.

“From every thing in nature a wise man may derive matter of meditation. In meditations, various authors have exercised their genius, or tortured their fancy. An author who meant to be serious, has meditated on the mystery of weaving; an author who never meant to be serious, has meditated on a broomstick; let me also meditate; and a library of books shall be the subject of my meditations.

“Before my eyes an almost innumerable multitude of authors are ranged; different in their opinions, as in their bulk and appearance; in what light shall I view this great assembly? Shall I consider it as an ancient legion, drawn out in goodly array under fit commanders? or as a modern regiment of writers, where the common men have been forced by want, or seduced through wickedness into the service, and where the leaders owe their advancement rather to caprice, party-favour, and the partiality of friends, than to merit or service?

“Shall I consider ye, O ye books! as a herd of courtiers or strumpets, who profess to be subservient to my use, and yet seek only your own advantage? No; let me consider this room as the great charnel-house of human reason, where darkness and corruption dwell; or, as a certain poet expresses himself,

Where hot and cold, and wet and dry,
And beef, and broth, and apple-pie,
Most slovenly assemble.

“Who are they, whose unadorned raiment bespeaks their inward simplicity? They are law books, statutes, and commentaries on statutes. These are acts of parliament, whom all men must obey, and yet few only can purchase. Like the Sphinx of antiquity, they speak in enigmas, and yet devour the unhappy wretches who comprehend them not.

“These are commentaries on statutes; for the perusing of them, the longest life of man would prove insufficient; for the understanding of them, the utmost ingenuity of man would not avail.

“Cruel is the dilemma between the necessity and the impossibility of understanding; yet are we not left utterly destitute of relief. Behold, for our comfort, an abridgment of law and equity! It consists not of many volumes; it extends only to twenty-two folios; yet as a few thin cakes may contain the whole nutritive substance of an installed ox, so may this compendium contain the essential gravy of many a report and adjudged case.

“The sages of the law recommend this abridgment to our perusal. Let us, with all thankfulness of heart, receive their counsel. Much are we beholden to the physicians who only prescribe the bark

of the *Quinquina*, when they might oblige their patients to swallow the whole tree.

“From these volumes I turn my eyes on a deep-embodied phalanx, numerous and formidable ; they are controversial divines ; so has the world agreed to term them. How arbitrary is language ! and how does the custom of mankind join words that reason has put asunder ! Thus we often hear of hell-fire cold, of devilish handsome, and the like ; and thus controversial and divine have been associated.

“These controversial divines have changed the rule of life into a standard of disputation. They have employed the temple of the Most High as a fencing-school, where gymnastic exercises are daily exhibited, and where victory serves only to excite new contests. Slighting the bulwarks wherewith He, who bestowed religion on mankind had secured it, they have encompassed it with various minute outworks, which an army of warriors can, with difficulty, defend.

“The next in order to them are the redoubtable antagonists of common sense ; the gentlemen who close up the common highway to heaven, and yet open no private road for persons having occasion to travel that way. The writers of this tribe are various, but in principles and manner nothing dissimilar. Let me review them as they stand arranged. These are epicurean orators, who have endeavoured to confound the ideas of right and wrong, to the unspeakable comfort of highwaymen and stock-jobbers. These are inquirers after truth, who never deign to implore the aid of knowledge in their researches. These are skeptics, who labour earnestly to argue themselves out of their own existence ; herein resembling that choice spirit, who endeavoured

so artfully to pick his own pocket, as not to be detected by himself. Last of all, are the composers of rhapsodies, fragments, and, strange to say it, thoughts.

“Amidst this army of anti-martyrs, I discern a volume of peculiar appearance ; its meagre aspect, and the dirty gaudiness of its habit, make it bear a perfect resemblance of a decayed gentleman. The wretched monument of mortality was brought forth in the reign of Charles the Second ; it was the darling and only child of a man of quality. How did its parent exult at its birth ! How many flatterers extolled it beyond their own offspring, and urged its credulous father to display its excellences to the whole world ! Induced by their solicitations, the father arrayed his child in scarlet and gold, submitted it to the public eye, and called it, ‘ Poems by a person of honour.’ While he lived, his booby offspring was treated with the cold respect due to the rank and fortune of its parent ; but when death had locked up his kitchen, and carried off the keys of his cellar, the poor child was abandoned to the parish ; it was kicked from stall to stall, like a despised prostitute ; and, after various calamities, was rescued out of the hands of a vender of Scots snuff, and safely placed as a pensioner in the band of free-thinkers.

“Thou first, thou greatest vice of the human mind, Ambition ! all these authors were originally thy votaries ! They promised to themselves a fame more durable than the calfskin that covered their works ; the calfskin, as the dealer speaks, is in excellent condition, while the books themselves remain the prey of that silent critic, the worm.

“Complete cooks and conveyancers ; bodies of school divinity and Tommy Thumb ; little story-

books, systems of philosophy, and memoirs of women of pleasure ; apologies for the lives of players and prime ministers, are all consigned to one common oblivion.

“ One book indeed there is, which pretends to little reputation, and, by a strange felicity, obtains whatever it demands. To be useful for some months only is the whole of its ambition ; and though every day that passes confessedly diminishes its utility, yet it is sought for and purchased by all ; such is the deserved and unenvied character of that excellent treatise of practical astronomy, the *Almanac*.”

NO. 141. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1755.

THE following letter was mislaid ; which is the reason of its not having appeared earlier in this paper. The excuse, perhaps, is less pardonable than the fault ; but it is the only one I can make with truth ; and I hope the author will receive it with candour.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ If ever you take the trouble of looking into any of the public papers besides your own, you cannot help observing the many curious experiments, which, of late years, have been made through all parts of this kingdom, in running, riding, leaping, driving,

fire-eating, wire-dancing, and various other useful arts, by persons of all ranks and fortunes.

“ I am willing to give credit to these extraordinary achievements, though many of them, I own, far exceed the bounds of probability, because of the honour they do to our age and country ; and it is not without high indignation against the ingratitude of the present times, that I have been hitherto disappointed in my expectations of seeing public honours and rewards bestowed on these illustrious personages, who, by such experiments have shown us what great things the powers of nature are capable of, when properly directed. Newton was knighted, and both he and Mr. Locke had very considerable places under the government ; and yet what mighty matters did these philosophers do, in comparison of our new experiment makers ? They contented themselves with looking into the laws of nature, and went no further. The mind orders its ideas just as it used to do, before the ‘ Essay on the Human Understanding ’ had banished from the world the doctrine of innate principles and substantial forms ; and Newton, after he had demolished the vortices of Descartes, left the planets just as he found them. They have rolled round the sun precisely in the same time, and at the same distance, before and since his discoveries. But our wonder-workers have found the secret of controlling the laws of nature, and have actually accomplished what, in the wards of Bedlam, and the laboratories of Logada, it would have been thought madness to attempt.

“ I am sensible it may be objected to me, that the things I compare are totally different ; and instead of these modern chiefs in philosophy, I should rather have turned my eyes to the renowned heroes of antiquity, whose exploits have been the admiration

of so many ages. Be it so. We own the resemblance, and have no reason to be afraid of the comparison; for besides that many of these exploits are looked upon as fabulous, if it be considered that some of them were only the effects of brute force, and that the merit of others is to be divided among multitudes, who all had a share in their production; no doubt can be made, on a fair estimate between the merit of ancient and modern worthies, on whose side the balance will be found to turn. I am no enemy to the fame of antiquity; but I own it grieves me, that when ancient exploits have been celebrated over and over by the choicest poets and historians, those of our own times, no less extraordinary, should be left to pass down to posterity, on no better authority than the doubtful testimony of a common newspaper.

“Mr. Fitz-Adam, you profess yourself a citizen of the world, an equal judge between all the children of our first parents; act up then to this character, and do justice; suffer not exploits to drop into oblivion, at which the Gymnasia of Greece and Italy would have stood aghast; which would have been honoured with statues and crowns of olive at Olympia; with a place in the Prytaneum at Athens, and an ovation, if not a triumph, at Rome. Suffer not ingratitude to fix a stain upon our country, which it would never be able to wipe off.

“I pretend not to enumerate, or even to be sensible of all the advantages with which these singular efforts of genius will be attended; but, in natural philosophy and religion their uses are apparent at the first glance.

“Experiments, it is now agreed on all hands, are the only solid basis of natural science. In these Bacon and Newton led the way; but their followers

have ennobled them ; they have transferred them from heavy inert matter, to the very quintessence of spirit, their horses and themselves. What before was only fit for recluse pedants, they have made the amusement and the business of fine gentlemen.

“ And here I beg leave, by the way, to propose a problem to the lovers of these noble arts, which I hope will not be thought altogether unworthy of their attention.

“ Suppose a gentleman is able to drive a wheel-carriage any given number of miles in an hour, when the motion of his horses is progressive, or according to the natural course of their limbs ; how much time ought he to be allowed to do it in when his horses move retrograde, or tails foremost.

“ But to come to religion. These new experiments serve to show how little we understand of the bounds of credibility. Had such experiments been properly attended to, a certain gentleman that shall be nameless, might have spared his haughty challenge to the defenders of the Christian faith. Our brave youths will soon make him sensible of his error, and turn the edge of that formidable broadsword of his upon himself, with which he has threatened to depopulate the Christian world. Will he any longer pretend to say that no testimony can make a thing credible that is contrary to experience, when I defy him to match, in the annals of any age or country, the feats which he is forced to believe on the credit of a common newspaper ?

“ I could run through all the arts and sciences, and in each of them show the wonderful advantage of these new experiments ; but this is a task that deserves an abler hand ; I therefore propose, when his Majesty shall have incorporated the authors of them into a new Royal Society, which I hope will

be soon, that one of our most eminent pens be appointed, after the example of Bishop Sprat, to write the history of the society; and another, after the example of Fontenelle, to make eulogies on its particular members. And I desire that you will immediately look out for two such persons amongst your correspondents; which I should imagine can be no great difficulty to one who has the honour to reckon in that number the prime wits of the age.

“I am Sir,

“Your humble servant.”

“MR. FITZ-ADAM,

“Walking the other day through Wapping, to see the humours of the place, I happened to cast my eyes upon the windows of an alehouse, where I saw written in large capitals, Roman Purl. I had the curiosity to ask of a man who was walking near me, why it might not as well have been called British Purl, as Roman Purl? ‘O Sir,’ said he, ‘the landlord has had twenty times the custom since he gave his liquor that outlandish name.’ I soon found that my sagacious informer was a maker of leather breeches by seeing him enter, and set himself to work in a shop, over the door of which was written upon a bit of paper, The true Italian leather-breeches balls, sold here by the maker. I confess I was a little surprised to find the fashion of admiring every thing foreign had extended itself to so great a distance from St. James’s; having conceived an opinion that none but our betters, at the polite end of the town, were the despisers and discouragers of our home manufactures.

“As I see no solid reason for this universal dislike to every thing that is English, I should be glad

of your sentiments on the subject, which will greatly oblige,

“ Sir,

“ Your constant reader and admirer,

“ C. D.”

I shall forbear making any remarks upon this letter, that I may oblige a very witty correspondent, whose letter I received a few days ago, by the general post. But I must entreat the favour of this gentleman, and of all others who may incline to write to me in so laconic a style, to choose another method of conveyance, for fear their letters should sometimes happen to miscarry.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ Pray be so kind as to insert this in your next.

“ Yours,

“ W. B.”

No. 142. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1755.

SINCE the publication of my correspondent's letter on the subject of noise, I have received the two following, which I shall lay before my readers for the entertainment of to-day.

“ TO MR FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ Your paper which treats of the passion for noise, has, in one respect, given me some pleasure;

the observations in it being such as I have often made myself, and the ridicule intended by them what many persons in the world very justly deserve. At the same time I could not help feeling some uneasiness, on being led by those observations to reflect seriously and deliberately upon my own misfortunes.

“Till I was about forty years old, I had lived a bachelor in London ; at which time, having acquired a comfortable fortune in the mercantile way, I retired into the country ; and hoping to pass the rest of my days in peace, and to be happy in a social companion, I married a wife. She has always been, for any thing that I know to the contrary, what is called a virtuous woman ; a notable one I am sure she is ; but though chastity and notableness may be very valuable qualities in a woman, yet if they are to be nursed and cherished at the expense of meekness, forbearance, and all the other virtues, in my humble opinion, she had better be without them. I called at your friend Dodsley’s, the last time I was in town, to look in Mr. Johnson’s dictionary for the meaning of the word notable ; but could find no such epithet applied to a wife. I wish, with all my heart, that he had given us a definition of that character, as also of a good woman, which, according to some alehouse signs in the country, is a woman without a head.

“I have long been of opinion that, as the principal virtue of a man is courage, so the principal virtue of a woman is silence ; my wife, indeed, is of a contrary way of thinking with regard to this female virtue ; but till I am stark deaf, I shall never be prevailed upon to alter my opinion. Dumb creatures were always my delight, and particularly a cat, the dumbest of all ; but my wife, who has a natural antipathy to that animal, has hung up a parrot in

my parlour, and filled my hen-yard and garden with maccaws and peacocks.

“ Besides the domestic noises with which I am perpetually tormented, I am unfortunately situated near the church, and in the hearing of ten dismal bells, which our parishioners have set up in the room of one single bell, by which, for many years before, the proper notice for church-time, and other parochial matters, had been usually given. And lest the advantage of the sound of these bells should ever be lost, one of our wealthy yeomen has bequeathed, by will, a considerable sum of money to the ringers of the parish, for a certain number of peals five or six times a week forever. About the time of this desirable acquisition, the new method of psalmody was introduced into our church, by a set of fellows who call themselves the singers; so that our good old tunes being rejected, I am obliged to sit and hear their terrible bawling and discord, having never been taught to sing in treble time, or to find anything solemn in the airs of a jig.

“ It happens, also, that our parish is famous for delighting in what is called rough music, consisting of performances on cow-horns, salt-boxes, warming-pans, sheep-bells, &c., intermixed with hooting, hallooing, and all sorts of hideous noises, with which the young wags of the village serenade their neighbours on several occasions, particularly those families, in which, as the phrase is, the gray mare is the better horse.

“ Being thus accustomed to noise in the daytime, I am frequently awaked out of my sleep, though in the absence of my wife, by dreaming of them in the night; so that in almost all my hours of retirement, in my slumbers, and even in my devotions, I am constantly tormented with noises, and thoroughly

convinced that there is no peace for me but in the grave.

"This being my case, I would advise you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, by all possible means, to discourage this raging passion for noise. If you are a married man, and have a notable wife, though from the freedom and spirit with which you write I should guess you to be a bachelor, you will need neither my example nor entreaties to set about this work in sober sadness. I am firmly persuaded that if you can put an end to all unreasonable noises, you will then accomplish that universal reformation of sentiments and manners for which your paper was intended. The women will be discreet and lovely, and the men rational companions for their wives and one another.

"After what I have heard say of myself, I dare not let you know the first syllable of my name, or of the village where I live; but I desire, nevertheless, to be esteemed as your very good friend, and though unknown,

"Your most faithful humble servant."

"P. S. I forgot to tell you that I have three fine girls, who, though extremely well inclined, are whipt every hour in the day, and made to pierce my ears with their cries, for not being women before their time, and as notable as their mamma. It had like to have escaped me too, that though my wife is reckoned to have the best times of any woman in the parish, it is the jest of the whole neighbourhood, upon hearing any violent or unusual screaming, that Mrs. * * * is in labour."

"MR. FITZ-ADAM,

"Finding by a late paper of yours, that you are

an advocate for peace and quietness, I am encouraged, though a woman, to make known my case to you. I have been a sufferer by noise all my life long. When I was young, I had a tender, though not a sickly constitution, and was reckoned, by all my acquaintance, a girl of a mild and gentle disposition, with abundance of good-nature. The temper of my father was, unfortunately, the very reverse of mine; and though I was ready to obey the least notice of his will, yet his commands were always given in so loud and harsh a tone of voice, that they terrified me like thunder. I have a thousand times started from my chair, and stood with my knees knocking together, upon his beginning to ask me a common question. My mother, he used to tell me, would ruin me by her gentleness. Indeed, she was as indulgent to me as I could wish, and hardly ever chid me in her life, unless forced to it by my father, and to keep the peace of the family, which, on various other occasions, was frequently in danger of being broken.

“At the boarding-school, which I was sent to at the usual age, I met with a governess who was hasty and passionate; and as in her cooler hours she was frequently making concessions to her scholars for the unguarded things she had said in her anger, she lost all her authority; so that having no one to fear, and no good example to follow, we were noisy and quarrelsome all the day long.

“After this, I had the unhappiness to be left an orphan to the care of my mother’s brother, who was a wealthy pewterer in the city. The room we lived in was directly over the shop, from whence my ears were perpetually dinned with the noise of hammers, and the clattering of plates and dishes. Our country-house, where we usually passed three or four

months every summer, was built close to some iron-mills, of which my uncle was proprietor. During our stay at this house, I need not tell you, how I was tormented with the horrid and tremendous noise which proceeded from these mills.

“At last, I was sent to board with a distant relation, who had been captain of a man-of-war, but who, having married a rich widow, had given up his commission, and retired into the country. Unfortunately for poor me, the captain still retained a passion for firing a great gun; and had mounted on a little fortification that was thrown up against the front of his house, eleven nine-pounders, which were constantly discharged ten or a dozen times over, on the arrival of visitors, and on all holidays and rejoicings. The noise of these cannon was more terrible to me than all the rest, and would have rendered my continuance there intolerable, if a young gentleman, a relation of the captain’s, had not held me by the heart-strings, and softened, by the most tender courtship in the world, the horrors of these firings. In short, I stayed at the captain’s till my fortune was in my own power, and then gave it to a husband.

“But alas! Mr. Fitz-Adam, I am wedded to noise and contention as long as I live. This tenderest of lovers is the most tyrannical of husbands. The hammering of pewter, the iron-mills, and the cannon, which so much disturbed me, are but lulling sounds, when compared to the raging of his voice, whenever he throws himself into one of his furies. It is the study of my life to oblige and please him, yet I offend and disgust him by every thing I do. If I am silent to his upbraidings, I am sullen; if I answer, though with the utmost mildness, I am either insolent or impertinent. How must I do, Mr. Fitz-Adam, to reclaim or bear with him? What-

ever I was by nature, I am at present so humbled, that I can submit to any thing. I have laid my case before you for your advice; being well convinced, by your speculations in general, that you are a warm advocate for the sex, though you sometimes take the liberty of telling us our own. It is not so much at the crossness of my husband, as at the loudness of his voice, that I complain; for I could submit with some kind of patience to be beat, pinched, scratched, or any thing, so that the drum of my ear was not entirely in danger of being broken. If I was deaf, I could defy the utmost of his malice, but till that happy time arrives, I am the most miserable of women, though much Mr. Fitz-Adam's,

“Admirer, and humble servant.”

No. 143. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1755.

I OUGHT hourly to be looking up with gratitude and praise to the Creator of my being, for having formed me of a disposition that throws off every particle of spleen, and either directs my attention to objects of cheerfulness and joy, or enables me to look upon their contraries as I do on shades on a picture, which add force to the lights, and beauty to the whole. With this happiness of constitution, I can behold the luxury of the times, as giving food and clothing to the hungry and the naked, extending our commerce, and promoting and encouraging the liberal arts. I can look upon the horrors of war,

as productive of the blessings and enjoyments of peace; and upon the miseries of mankind, which I cannot relieve, with a thankful heart that my own lot has been more favourable.

There is a passage in that truly original poem, called *The Spleen*, which pleases me more than almost any thing I have read. The passage is this:—

Happy the man, who, innocent,
Grieves not at ills he can't prevent;
His skiff does with the current glide,
Not puffing pull'd against the tide:
He, paddling by the scuffling crowd,
Sees, unconcern'd, life's wager row'd;
And when he can't prevent foul play,
Enjoys the follies of the fray.

The laughing philosopher has always appeared to me a more eligible character than the weeping one; but before I sit down either to laugh or cry at the follies of mankind, as I have publicly enlisted myself in their service, it becomes me to administer every thing in my power to relieve or cure them. For this purpose I shall here lay before my readers some loose hints on a subject which will, I hope, excite their attention, and contribute towards the expelling from the heart those malignant and sullen humours which destroy the harmony of social life.

If we make observations on human nature, either from what we feel in ourselves, or see in others, we shall perceive that almost all the uneasiness of mankind owe their rise to inactivity or idleness of body or mind. A free and brisk circulation of the blood is absolutely necessary towards the creating easiness and good-humour; and is the only means of securing us from a restless train of idle thoughts, which cannot fail to make us burdensome to ourselves, and dissatisfied with all about us.

Providence has therefore wisely provided for the generality of mankind, by compelling them to use that labour, which not only procures them the necessities of life, but peace and health, to enjoy them with delight. Nay further, we find how essentially necessary it is that the greatest part of mankind should be obliged to earn their bread by labour, from the ill use that is almost universally made of those riches which exempt men from it. Even the advantages of the best education are generally found to be insufficient to keep us within the limits of reason and moderation. How hard do the very best of men find it, to force upon themselves that abstinence or labour, which the narrowness of their circumstances does not immediately compel them to? Is there really one in ten, who by all the advantages of wealth and leisure, is made more happy in respect to himself, or more useful to mankind? What numbers do we daily see of such persons, either rioting in luxury, or sleeping in sloth, for one who makes a proper use of the advantages which riches give for the improvement of himself, or the happiness of others? And how many do we meet with, who, for their abuse of the blessings of life, are given up to perpetual uneasiness of mind, and to the greatest agonies of bodily pain?

Whoever seriously considers this point, will discover that riches are by no means such certain blessings as the poor imagine them to be; on the contrary, he will perceive that the common labours and employments of life are much better suited to the majority of mankind than prosperity and abundance would be without them.

It was a merciful sentence which the Creator passed on man for his disobedience, "By the sweat

of thy face shalt thou eat thy bread ;” for to the punishment itself he stands indebted for health, strength, and all the enjoyments of life. Though the first paradise was forfeited for his transgression, yet, by the penalty inflicted for that transgression, the earth is made into a paradise again, in the beautiful fields and gardens which we daily see produced by the labour of man. And though the ground was pronounced cursed for his disobedience, yet is that curse so ordered as to be the punishment, chiefly and almost solely, of those who, by intemperance or sloth, inflict it upon themselves.

Even from the wants and weaknesses of mankind, are the bands of mutual support and affection derived. The necessities of each, which no man of himself can sufficiently supply, compel him to contribute towards the benefit of others ; and while he labours only for his own advantage, he is promoting the universal good of all around him.

Health is the blessing which every one wishes to enjoy ; but the multitude are so unreasonable, as to desire to purchase it at a cheaper rate than it is to be obtained. The continuance of it is only to be secured by exercise or labour. But the misfortune is, that the poor are too apt to overlook their own enjoyments, and to view, with envy, the ease and affluence of their superiors, not considering that the usual attendants upon great fortunes are anxiety and disease.

If it be true that the persons are the happiest who have the fewest wants, the rich man is more the object of compassion than envy. However moderate his inclinations may be, the custom of the world lays him under the necessity of living up to his fortune. He must be surrounded by a useless train of servants ; his appetite must be palled with

plenty, and his peace invaded by crowds. He must give up the pleasures and endearments of domestic life to be the slave of party and faction. Or, if the goodness of his heart should incline him to acts of humanity and benevolence, he will have frequently the mortification of seeing his charities ill bestowed; and, by his inability to relieve all, the constant one of making more enemies by his refusals than friends by his benefactions. If we add to these considerations a truth, which I believe few persons will dispute, namely, that the greatest fortunes, by adding to the wants of the possessors, usually render them the most necessitous of men, we shall find greatness and happiness to be at a wide distance from one another. If we carry our inquiries still higher, if we examine into the state of a king, and even enthrone him, like our own, in the hearts of his people; if the life of a father be a life of care and anxiety, to be the father of a people is a pre-eminence to be honoured, but not envied.

The happiness of life is, I believe, generally to be found in those stations which neither totally subject men to labour, nor absolutely exempt them from it. Power is the parent of disquietude, ambition of disappointment, and riches of disease.

I will conclude these reflections with the following fable:—

Labour, the offspring of Want, and the mother of Health and Contentment, lived with her two daughters in a little cottage, by the side of a hill at a great distance from town. They were totally unacquainted with the great, and had kept no better company than the neighbouring villagers; but having a desire of seeing the world, they forsook their companions and habitation, and determined to travel. Labour went soberly along the road with Health on

her right hand, who, by the sprightliness of her conversation, and songs of cheerfulness and joy, softened the toils of the way; while Contentment went smiling on the left, supporting the steps of her mother, and, by her perpetual good-humour, increasing the vivacity of her sister.

In this manner they travelled over forests, and through towns and villages, till at last they arrived at the capital of the kingdom. At their entrance into the great city, the mother conjured her daughters never to lose sight of her; for it was the will of Jupiter, she said, that their separation should be attended with the utter ruin of all three. But Health was of too gay a disposition to regard the counsels of Labour; she suffered herself to be debauched by Intemperance, and at last died in childbirth of Disease. Contentment, in the absence of her sister, gave herself up to the enticements of Sloth, and was never heard of after; while Labour, who could have no enjoyment without her daughters, went everywhere in search of them, till she was at last seized by lassitude in her way, and died in misery.

No. 144. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1755.

THE following letter is of so interesting a nature, that I have put my printer to no small inconvenience in getting it ready at a very short warning for this day's publication. If the contents of it are

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genuine, I hardly know of a punishment, which the author of such complicated ruin does not deserve. The unavoidable miseries of mankind are sufficient in themselves for human nature to bear; but when shame and dishonour are added to poverty and want, the lot of life is only to be endured by the consideration that there is a final state of retribution, in which the sufferings of the innocent will be abundantly recompensed, and temporary sorrows be crowned with endless joys.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ If your breast has any feeling for the distresses of a ruined wife and mother, I beseech you to give my most unhappy story a place in your next paper. It may possibly come time enough to prevent a catastrophe, which would add horror to ruin, and drive to utter distraction a poor helpless family, who have more misery already than they are able to bear.

“ I am the wife of a very worthy officer in the army, who, by a train of unavoidable misfortunes, was obliged to sell his commission; and from a state of ease and plenty, has been long since reduced to the utmost penury and want. One son and a daughter were our only children. — Alas! that I should live to say it! Happy would it have been for us, if one of them had never been born! — The boy was of a noble nature, and, in happier times, his father bought him a commission in the service, where he is now a lieutenant, and quartered in Scotland with his regiment. O! he is a dear and dutiful child, and has kept his poor parents from the extremity of want, by the kind supplies which he has from time to time sent us in our misfortunes.

“His sister was, in the eyes of a fond father and mother, lovely to an extreme. Alas. Mr. Fitz-Adam! she was too lovely. — The times I have watered her dear face with my tears, at the thought that her temper was too meek and gentle for so engaging a form! She lived with us till she was turned of fourteen, at which time we were prevailed on by a friend to place her with a gentleman of fortune in the country, who had lately buried his lady, to be the companion of his daughters. The gentleman’s character was too honourable, and the offer too advantageous, to suffer us to hesitate long about parting with a child, whom, dear to us as she was, we were not able to support. It is now a little more than two years since our separation; and till within a very few months, it was our happiness and joy that we had provided for her so fortunately. She lived in the esteem and friendship of the young ladies, who were indeed very amiable persons; and such was their father’s seeming indulgence to us, that he had advanced my husband a sum of money upon his bond, to free him from some small debts, which threatened him hourly with a jail.

“But how shall I tell you, Sir, that this seeming benefactor has been the cruellest of all enemies! The enjoyment of our good fortune began to be interrupted, by hearing less frequently from our daughter than we used to do; and when a letter from her arrived, it was short and constrained, and sometimes blotted as if with tears, while it told us of nothing that should occasion any concern. It is now upwards of two months since we have heard from her at all; and while we were wondering at her silence, we received a letter from the eldest of the young ladies, which threw us into perplexity, which can neither be described nor imagined. It was directed to me, and contained these words: —

‘MADAM,

‘For reasons that you will too soon be acquainted with, I must desire that your daughter may be a stranger to our family. I dare not indulge my pity for her as I would, lest it should lead me to think too hardly of one, whom I am bound in duty to reverence and honour. The bearer brings you a trifle, with which I desire you will immediately hire a postchaise and take away your daughter. My father is from home, and knows nothing of this letter ; but assure yourself it is meant to serve you ; and that I am,

‘Madam,

‘Your very sincere friend

‘and humble servant.’

“ Alarmed and terrified as I was at this letter, I made no hesitation of complying with its contents. The bearer of it either could not, or would not inform me of a syllable that I wanted to know. My husband, indeed, had a fatal guess at its meaning ; and, in a fury of rage, insisted on accompanying me ; but, as I really hoped better things, and flattered myself that the young ladies were apprehensive of a marriage between their father and my girl, I soothed him into patience, and set out alone.

“ I travelled all night ; and, early the next morning, saw myself at the end of my journey, — O, Sir ! am I alive to tell it ? I found my daughter in a situation the most shocking that a fond mother could behold ! She had been seduced by her benefactor, and was visibly with child. I will not detain you with the swoonings and confusion of the unhappy creature at this meeting, nor with my own distraction at what I saw and heard. In short, I learnt

from the eldest of the young ladies, that she had long suspected some unwarrantable intimacies between her father and my girl; and that finding in her altered shape and appearance a confirmation of her suspicions, she had questioned her severely upon the subject, and brought her to a full confession of her guilt; that further, her infatuated father was then gone to town, to provide lodgings for the approaching necessity, and that my poor deluded girl had consented to live with him afterwards in London, in the character of a mistress.

“I need not tell you, Sir, the horror I felt at this dismal tale. Let it suffice that I returned with my unhappy child, with all the haste I was able. Nor is it needful that I should tell you of the rage and indignation of a fond and distracted father at our coming home. Unhappily for us all, he was too violent in his menaces, which I suppose reached the ears of this cruellest of men, who, eight days ago, caused him to be arrested upon his bond, and hurried to a prison.

“But if this, Mr. Fitz-Adam, had been the utmost of my misery, cruel as it is, I had spared you the trouble of this relation, and buried my grief in my own bosom. Alas! Sir, I have another concern, that is more insupportable to me than all I have told you. My distracted husband, in the anguish of his soul, has written to my son, and given him the most aggravated detail of his daughter’s shame, and his own imprisonment; conjuring him, as he has confessed to me this morning, by the honour of a soldier, and by every thing he holds dear, to lose not a moment in doing justice with his sword upon this destroyer of his family. The fatal letter was sent last week, and has left me in the utmost horror at the thought of what may happen. I dread every

thing from the rashness and impetuosity of my son, whose notions of honour and justice are those of a young soldier, who, in defiance of the law, will be judge in his own cause, and the avenger of injuries, which Heaven only should punish.

"I have written to him upon this occasion in all the agony of a fond mother's distresses. But O! I have fatal forebodings that my letter will arrive too late. What is this honour, and what this justice that prompts men to acts of violence and blood, and either leaves them victims to the law, or to their own unwarrantable rashness? As forcibly as I was able, in this distracted condition, I have set his duty before him; and have charged him, for his own soul's sake, and for the sake of those he most tenderly loves, not to bring utter ruin on a family whose distresses already are near sinking them to the grave.

"The only glimmering of comfort that opens upon me, is the hope that your publication of this letter may warn the wretch who has undone us of his danger, and incline him to avoid it. Fear is generally the companion of guilt, and may, possibly, be the means of preserving to me the life of a son, after worse than death has happened to a daughter.

"If you have pity in your nature, I beg the immediate publication of this letter, which will infinitely oblige,

"Sir,

"Your greatly distressed,

"but most faithful servant."

No. 145. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1755.

“TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“SIR,

“It is with great pleasure that I see you frequently doing justice to the age you live in, and not running into that vulgar and ill-natured prejudice, that the present times are worse than the past. We are certainly better in every respect than our forefathers; and it is right we should be told so, to encourage us in our progress towards the summit of perfection. “I could give a thousand instances of the virtues of these times; but shall at present content myself with one, which I do not remember that you have hitherto so much as touched upon. It is the extreme constancy and disinterestedness of the men, in affairs of love and marriage.

“I am a woman, Mr. Fitz-Adam, and have lately experienced this truth, in a degree that would bring upon me the imputation of ingratitude, if I neglected to do this public justice to the most constant and generous of all lovers.

“It is now upwards of a year since I received the addresses of this gentleman. He is a man of fortune and family; perfectly agreeable in his person; witty and engaging in his conversation; with a heart the most tender, and manners the most soft and amiable that can be imagined. Such as I have described him, you will not wonder that I gave him my whole heart, and waited with the utmost impatience to be united to him forever.

“I will not give him a merit which he does not want, that of intending my happiness only, and of raising me to a rank which neither my person nor fortune gave me any pretensions to; on the contrary, I was young and handsome, and, in the opinion of the world, one whose alliance could bring as much honour into my lover’s family, as he could reflect on mine. Nor, indeed, did I ever wish that there should be any such obligation on either side; having generally observed that the most equal matches are the most productive of happiness. But I only mention this circumstance, as it may serve to do honour to his behaviour since.

“The time was now approaching, which was to make us inseparably one. What his sentiments were upon the occasion, may be seen by the following letter, which, among a thousand of the same kind, I shall here transcribe.

““It is as impossible for me to rise, and not write to my angel, as to lie down and not think of her. I am too happy. Pray use me a little ill, that I may come to a right state of mind; for at present I can neither eat nor sleep; yet, I am more good-humoured than all the world; and then so compassionate, that I pity every man I see. My dearest loves only me, and all other men must be miserable. I wonder that anybody can laugh besides myself; if it be a man, he makes me jealous; I fancy that he entertains hopes of my charmer; for the world has nothing else in it to make him cheerful.

““And now, my life! I have done with all my doubts; the time approaches, that will change them into happiness. I know of nothing, sickness and death excepted, that can possibly prevent it. Our pleasures will lie in so narrow a compass, that we shall always be within reach of them. To oblige

and be obliged, will be all we want ; and how sweet it is to think that the business of our lives and the delight of our hearts will be the same thing ! I mean, the making each other happy ! but I am doomed to be more obliged than I have power to oblige. — What a wife am I to have ! Indeed, my love, I shall think myself the worst, if I am not the very best of all husbands.

‘ Adieu ! ’

“ Upon my making a visit of a few days to a friend near town, where I desired him not to come, he wrote to me as follows : —

“ ‘ This lazy penny-post, how I hate it ! It is two tedious days that I must wait for an answer to what I write. I will set up a post of my own, that shall go and come every two hours ; and then, upon condition that I hear from you by every return of it, I will obey your commands, and not think of seeing you. I wonder you have not taken it into your head to bid me live without breathing. But take care, my love, that you never give up the power you have over me ; for if ever it comes to my turn to reign, I will be revenged on you without mercy. I will load you so with love and kind offices that your little heart shall almost break, in struggling how to be grateful. I will be tormenting you every day, and all day long. I will prevent your very wishes. Even the poor comfort of hope shall be denied you ; for you shall know that none of your to-morrows shall be happier than your yesterdays. Your pride, too, shall be mortified ; for I will outlove you, and be kinder to you than you can possibly be to me. All these miseries you shall suffer, and yet never be able to wish for death to relieve you from them. So if you have a mind to

avoid my cruelties, resolve not to marry me ; for I am a tyrant in my nature, and will execute all I have threatened.'

"How tender and obliging were these expressions ! I own to you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that I answered them all, in an equal strain of fondness. But, in the midst of this sweet intercourse, he was unhappily taken ill of the smallpox. The moment he was sensible of his distemper, he conjured me, in a letter, not to come near him, lest his apprehensions for me, as I had never had it, should prove more fatal to him than the disease. It was, indeed, of the most dangerous kind ; but how was it possible for me to keep from him ? I flew to him when he was at the worst, and would not leave him till they took me away by force. The consequence of this visit was, that I caught the infection, and sickened next day. My distemper was of the confluent sort, and much worse than my lover's, who, in less than three weeks, was in a condition to return my visit. He had sent almost every hour in the day to inquire how I did ; and when he saw me out of danger, though totally altered from my former self, his transports were not to be told or imagined. I cannot resist the pleasure of transcribing the letter that he sent me at his return home that evening.

"What language shall I invent to tell the charmer of my soul how happy this visit has made me ? To see you restored to health was my heart's only wish ; nor can my eyes behold a change in that face, if they can be sensible of any change, that will not endear it to me beyond the power of beauty. Every trace of that cruel distemper will be considered by me as a love mark, that will forever revive in my soul the ideas of that kindness by which it came. Lament not a change, then, that

makes you lovelier to me than ever; for till your soul changes, which can never happen, I will be only and all

‘Yours.’

“This letter, and a thousand repetitions of the same engaging language, made me look upon the loss of my beauty as a trivial loss. But the time was not yet come that was to show me this generous and disinterested lover in the most amiable of all lights. My father, whose only child I was, and who had engaged to give me a large fortune at my marriage, and the whole of his estate at his death, fell ill soon after; and, to the surprise of all the world, died greatly involved, and left me without a shilling to my portion.

“My lover was in the country, when I acquainted him with this fatal news. Indeed, I had no doubt of his generosity; but how like a divinity he appeared to me when, by the return of the post, he sent me the following letter!

“‘Think not, my soul, that any external accident can occasion the least change in my affections. I rather rejoice that an opportunity is at last given me of proving to my dearest creature that I loved her only for herself. I have fortune enough for both; or if I had not, love would be sufficient to supply all our wants. This cruel business, how angry it makes me! But a very few days, my life, shall bring me to your arms. O! how I love you! Those are my favourite words, and I am sure I shall die with them; or if I should have the misery to outlive you, they will only be changed to — O! how I loved her! But the *now*, my dear, is not to be told; your own heart must teach it you. When is it that I shall love you best of all? Why,

the last day of my life, after having lived many, many years.

‘ Your obliged, and happy husband.’

“ How truly noble was this letter ! But you will think me dwelling too long upon my own happiness ; I shall therefore only add, that it is now a week since he wrote it ; and that yesterday I received the undoubted intelligence that my lover was married the very next day, to a fat widow of five-and-fifty, with a large jointure, a fine house, and a fortune of twenty thousand pounds at her own disposal.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ M. B.”

No. 146. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1755.

I HAVE so tender a regard for my fair countrywomen, that I most heartily congratulate them upon the approaching meeting of the parliament, which I consider, and I believe they do so too, as the general jail-delivery of the several counties of the united kingdom.

That beautiful part of our species once engrossed my cares ; they still share them ; I have been exceedingly affected all the summer with the thoughts of their captivity, and have felt a sympathetic grief for them.

In truth, what can be more moving, than to im-

agine a fine woman of the highest rank and fashion torn from all the elegant and refined pleasures of the metropolis; hurried by a merciless husband into country captivity, and there exposed to the incursions of the neighbouring knights, squires, and parsons, their wives, sons, daughters, dogs, and horses? The metropolis was at once the seat of her empire, and the theatre of her joys. Exiled from thence, how great the fall! how dreadful the prison! Methinks I see her sitting in her dressing-room at the mansion-seat, sublimely sullen, like a dethroned eastern monarch; some few books, scattered up and down, seem to imply that she finds no consolation in any. The unopened knotting-bag speaks her painful leisure. Insensible to the proffered endearments of her tender infants, they are sent away for being so abominably noisy. Her dress is even neglected, and her complexion laid by. I am not ashamed to own my weakness, if it be one; for I confess that this image struck me so strongly, and dwelt upon my mind so long, that it drew tears from my eyes.

The prorogation of the parliament last spring was the fatal forerunner of this summer captivity. I was well aware of it, and had some thoughts of preparing a short treatise of consolation, which I would have presented to my fair countrywomen, in two or three weekly papers, to have accompanied them in their exile; but I must own that I found the attempt greatly above my strength; and inadequate consolation only redoubles the grief, by reviving in the mind the cause of it. Thus at a loss, I searched, as every modest modern should do, the ancients, in order to say in English, whatever they had said, in Latin or Greek, upon the like occasion; but far from finding any case in point, I could not find one

in any degree like it. I particularly consulted Cicero, upon that exile which he bore so very indifferently himself; but, to my great surprise, could not meet with one single word of consolation, addressed and adapted to the fair and tender part of his species. To say the truth, that philosopher seems to have had either a contempt for, or an aversion to the fair sex; for it is very observable, that even in his essay upon old age, there is not one single period addressed directly and exclusively to them; whereas I humbly presume that an old woman wants at least as much, if not more comfort than an old man. Far be it from me to offer them that refined stoical argument to prove that exile can be no misfortune, because the exiled persons can always carry their virtue along with them, if they please.

However, though I could administer no adequate comfort to my fair fellow-subjects under their country captivity, my tender concern for them prompts me to offer them some advice upon their approaching liberty.

As there must have been, during this suspension, I will not say only of pleasure, but, in a manner, of existence, a considerable saving in the article of pin-money, I earnestly recommend to them, immediately upon their coming to town, to apply that sinking fund to the discharge of debts already incurred, and not divert it to the current service of the ensuing year. I would not be misunderstood; I mean only the payments of debts of honour, contracted at Commerce, Brag, or Faro; as they are apt to hang heavy upon the minds of women of sentiment, and even to affect their countenances, upon the approach of a creditor. As for shop-debts to mercers, milliners, jewellers, French peddlers, and such like, it is no great matter whether they are

paid or not ; somehow or other those people will shift for themselves, or, at worst, fall ultimately upon the husband.

I will also advise those fine women who, by an unfortunate concurrence of odious circumstances, have been obliged to begin an acquaintance with their husbands and children in the country, not to break it off entirely in town, but, on the contrary, to allow a few minutes every day to the keeping it up ; since a time may come when perhaps they may like their company rather better than none at all.

As my fair fellow-subjects were always famous for their public spirit and love of their country, I hope they will, upon the present emergency of the war with France, distinguish themselves by unequivocal proofs of patriotism. I flatter myself that they will, at their first appearance in town, publicly renounce those French fashions which, of late years, have brought their principles, both with regard to religion and government, a little in question. And therefore I exhort them to disband their curls, comb their heads, wear white linen, and clean pocket handkerchiefs, in open defiance of all the power of France. But above all, I insist upon their laying aside that shameful piratical practice of hoisting false colours upon their top-gallant, in the mistaken notion of captivating and enslaving their countrymen. This they may the more easily do at first, since it is to be presumed that, during their retirement, their faces have enjoyed uninterrupted rest. Mercury and vermilion have made no depredations these six months ; good air and good hours may perhaps have restored, to a certain degree at least, their natural carnation ; but, at worst, I will venture to assure them that such of their lovers who may

know them again in that state of native artless beauty, will rejoice to find the communication opened again, and all the barriers of plaster and stucco removed. Be it known to them, that there is not a man in England who does not infinitely prefer the brownest natural to the whitest artificial skin ; and I have received numberless letters from men of the first fashion, not only requesting but requiring me to proclaim this truth, with leave to publish their names ; which, however, I decline ; but if I thought it could be of any use, I could easily present them with a round robin to that effect, of above a thousand of the most respectable names. One of my correspondents, a member of the Royal Society, illustrates his indignation at glazed faces, by an apt and well-known physical experiment. The shining glass tube, says he, when warmed by friction, attracts a feather, probably a white one, to close contact ; but the same feather, from the moment that it is taken off the tube, flies it with more velocity than it approached it with before. I make no application ; but avert the omen, my dear countrywomen !

Another, who seems to have some knowledge of chemistry, has sent me a receipt for a most excellent wash, which he desires me to publish, by way of *succedaneum* to the various greasy, glutinous, and pernicious applications so much used of late. It is as follows : —

“Take of fair clear water *quantum sufficit* ; put it into a clean earthen or china bason ; then take a clean linen cloth, dip it in that water, and apply it to the face night and morning, or oftener as occasion may require.”

I own, the simplicity and purity of this admirable lotion recommend it greatly to me, and engage me to recommend it to my fair countrywomen. It is

free from all the inconveniences and nastiness of all other preparations of art whatsoever. It does not stink, as all others do ; it does not corrode the skin, as all others do ; it does not destroy the eyes, nor rot the teeth, as all others do ; and it does not communicate itself by collision, nor betray the transactions of a *tête-à-tête*, as most others do.

Having thus paid my tribute of grief to my lovely countrywomen during their captivity, and my tribute of congratulations upon their approaching liberty, I heartily wish them a good journey to London. May they soon enter, in joyful triumph, that metropolis which, six months ago, they quitted with tears !

No. 147. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1755.

I AM favoured with the following letter by a correspondent ; who, if I am not mistaken in the hand, has once obliged me before. I cannot better testify my approbation of what he writes, than by desiring a repetition of his favours as often as he has leisure and inclination to oblige me. It is chiefly owing to the assistance of such correspondents, that this paper has extended its date beyond the usual period of such kind of productions ; and, if I may be allowed to say it, they have given it a variety, which could hardly have been accomplished by one single hand. Whether it be modesty or vanity that compels me to this confession, I shall leave the reader to determine, after telling him that it is to the full

as pleasing to me not to have been thought unworthy of the assistance I have received, as it would to have been myself the composer of the most approved pieces in this collection.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ In this land of liberty, he who can procure a printer commences author, and instructs the public. Far be it from me to censure this spirit of advising, so prevalent among my honoured countrymen; for to this we owe treatises of divinity by tallow-chandlers, and declamations on politics by apothecaries.

“ You must, no doubt, have observed that every man who is in possession of a diamond arrogates to himself this privilege of instructing others; hence it is that the panes of windows in all places of public resort are so amply furnished with miscellaneous observations, by various authors.

“ One advice may be given to all writers, whether on paper or on glass; and it is comprehended in the single word think. My purpose, at present, is to illustrate this maxim in as far as it respects the latter sort of authors.

“ I divide the authors who exercise the diamond into four classes; the politicians, the historians, the lovers, and the satirists.

The mystery or art of politics, is the business of every one, who either has nothing to do, or who cares not to do any thing; as a broken merchant is often made a tide-waiter. Hence so many politicians make their appearance on glass. It is there that controversies of a political nature are daily agitated; in them the established laws of controversy are observed; some one asserts the truth of a proposition;

another contradicts him ; rogue and rascal are immediately dealt about, and the matter originally in dispute, is no more heard of.

“ Now, Mr. Fitz-Adam, if these gentlemen would be but pleased to think, and keep their temper, how might the world be edified ! One might acquire as much useful knowledge by travelling post through England, as ever the philosophers of Athens did by lounging in their porticos ; and our great turn-pike roads would afford as complete a system of politics, as that which Plato picked up in his Egyptian rambles. In a word, the debates on the windows at the George or the Bell, might prove no less instructing, than the debates of the political club, or the society at the Robin Hood.

“ Were this proposed reformation to take place, the contractors for the magazines of knowledge and pleasure might forage successfully on window-glass. But I need not insist further on these considerations ; their zeal for the public service is well known ; with the view of amusing and instructing, they have not only ransacked the records of pastry-schools, and the manuscript collections of good housewives for receipts in cookery, but they have consulted the monuments of the dead for delightful blunders and merry epitaphs.

“ The historians on glass are of various sorts ; some are chronologers, and content themselves with informing us that they were at such a place on such a day, in their way to this or that town or county. Others are chorographers, and minutely describe the nature and condition of the highways and the landladies. A third sort may be termed annalists, who imagine that fact deserves to be recorded, merely because it is a fact ; and, on this account, gravely tell the world that on such a day they fell

in love, or got drunk, or did some other thing of equal insignificance.

“A little thought would abridge the labour of these historians. Let them reflect on the nothingness of such incidents, and surely they will abstain from recording them. In common life, minute relations of trifles are necessary; man is a sociable and talkative animal; and, as the bulk of mankind cannot communicate to others what they have thought, they must content themselves with relating what they have seen. On this principle are most coffee-house societies established. But why must a man be dull and narrative on window-glass? Let him reserve his dulness for the club-night, and, as Dogberry in the play says, bestow all his tediousness on his own companions.

“I now proceed to the most numerous tribe of all, the lovers; and shall only hint at some enormities in their conduct. And first of all, as to their custom of writing the names of their mistresses with *anno domini* at the end of them; as if the chronicles of love were to be as exactly kept as a parish register. To what good purpose can this serve? To inscribe the names of fair ladies on glass may, indeed, convey a pretty moral signification; since female charms are properly enough recorded on tablets of a frail nature; but when the year of admiration is added, what elderly woman is there who can pretend to youthfulness? Her waiting-maid may extol her good looks; her mirror may deceive her; powder of pearl and Spanish wool may favour the illusion; but pretty Miss such-a-one 1730, is an argument of antiquity, which neither flattery nor paint can refute.

“The lovers also deserve censures for their humour of writing in verse. Because all poets are said

to be lovers, these gentlemen sagely conclude that all lovers are poets; and, on the faith of this inverted aphorism, they commence rhymers. He who cannot compose a sermon does well to read the works of another. This example ought to be imitated by the herd of lovers. Prior and Hammond are at their service; their only care ought to be in the application. And yet this caution, simple as it is, has been neglected by many lovers, who have condescended to steal. Hence it is that the wealth of the East is frequently declared insufficient for the purchase of a girl who would be dear at half-a-crown; and Milton's description of the mother of human kind perverted to the praise of some little milliner.

"The satirists come now to be considered. These men are certainly of a strange composition. While dinner is getting ready they amuse themselves with making out a list of the faults, real or imaginary, which may be imputed to any of their acquaintance. Incapable of reflection, they know not how to employ their time, and, therefore, wound and murder the fame of men better and wiser than themselves. If I am not mistaken, a defamation is no less punishable when inscribed on glass, than when committed to paper. This consideration may prevent fools from scattering arrows of death, although reason and humanity cannot.

"But the chief of all satirists are they who scribble obscenity on windows. Every word which they write is a severe reflection on themselves, and, in the judgment of foreigners, on their country. What opinion must foreigners entertain of a nation where infamous ribaldry meets the eye on every window? an enormity peculiar, in a great measure, to Great Britain. Do these writers, indeed, believe themselves

to be wits? Let them but step into the smoking parlours, or the low rooms where their footmen have their residence, and they will perceive that the serving-men equal their masters in this species of wit. Vainly do people of fashion attempt to monopolize illiberality, ignorance, and indecency, when, if they and their footmen apply themselves to the same studies, the latter will probably be the best proficient.

“Be wise therefore, O ye scribblers, and think.
“I am,” &c.

NO. 148. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1755.

CIVILITY and good-breeding are generally thought, and often used, as synonymous terms, but are by no means so.

Good-breeding necessarily implies civility; but civility does not reciprocally imply good-breeding. The former has its intrinsic weight and value, which the latter always adorns and often doubles by its workmanship.

To sacrifice one's own self-love to other people's is a short, but, I believe, a true definition of civility; to do it with ease, propriety, and grace, is good-breeding. The one is the result of good-nature; the other of good-sense, joined to experience, observation, and attention.

A ploughman will be civil, if he is good-natured, but cannot be well-bred. A courtier will be well-

bred, though perhaps without good-nature, if he has but good-sense.

Flattery is the disgrace of good-breeding, as brutality often is of truth and sincerity. Good-breeding is the middle point between those two odious extremes.

Ceremony is the superstition of good-breeding, as well as of religion; but yet, being an outwork to both, should not be absolutely demolished. It is always, to a certain degree, to be complied with, though despised by those who think, because admired and respected by those who do not.

The most perfect degree of good-breeding, as I have already hinted, is only to be acquired by great knowledge of the world, and keeping the best company. It is not the object of mere speculation, and cannot be exactly defined, as it consists in a fitness, a propriety of words, actions, and even looks, adapted to the infinite variety and combinations of persons, places, and things. It is a mode not a substance; for what is good-breeding at St. James's would pass for foppery or banter in a remote village; and the homespun civility of that village would be considered as brutality at court.

A cloistered pedant may form true notions of civility; but, if amidst the cobwebs of his cell he pretends to spin a speculative system of good-breeding, he will not be less absurd than his predecessor, who judiciously undertook to instruct Hannibal in the art of war. The most ridiculous and most awkward of men are, therefore, the speculatively well-bred monks of all religions and all professions.

Good-breeding, like charity, not only covers a multitude of faults, but, to a certain degree, supplies the want of some virtues. In the common intercourse of life, it acts good-nature, and often does

what good-nature will not always do ; it keeps both wits and fools within those bounds of decency which the former are too apt to transgress, and which the latter never know.

Courts are unquestionably the seats of good-breeding ; and must necessarily be so ; otherwise they would be the seats of violence and desolation. There all the passions are in their highest state of fermentation. All pursue what but few can obtain, and many seek what but one can enjoy, good-breeding alone restrains their excesses. There, if enemies did not embrace they would stab. There, smiles are often put on to conceal tears. There, mutual services are professed, while mutual injuries are intended ; and there, the guile of the serpent simulates the gentleness of the dove ; all this, it is true, at the expense of sincerity ; but, upon the whole, to the advantage of social intercourse in general.

I would not be misapprehended, and supposed to recommend good-breeding, thus profaned and prostituted to the purposes of guilt and perfidy ; but I think I may justly infer from it to what a degree the accomplishment of good-breeding must adorn and enforce virtue and truth, when it can thus soften the outrages and deformity of vice and falsehood.

I am sorry to be obliged to confess that my native country is not, perhaps, the seat of the most perfect good-breeding, though I really believe that it yields to none in hearty and sincere civility, as far as civility is, and to a certain degree it is, an inferior moral duty of doing as one would be done by. If France exceeds us in that particular, the incomparable author of *L'Esprit de Loix* accounts for it very impartially, and I believe very truly. "If my countrymen," says he, "are the best bred people

in the world, it is only because they are the vainest." It is certain that their good-breeding and attentions, by flattering the vanity and self-love of others, repay their own with interest. It is a general commerce, usefully carried on by a barter of attentions, and often without one grain of solid merit, by way of medium, to make up the balance.

It were to be wished that good-breeding were, in general, thought a more essential part of the education of our youth, especially of distinction, than at present it seems to be. It might even be substituted in the room of some academical studies that take up a great deal of time to very little purpose; or at least, it might usefully share some of those many hours that are so frequently employed upon a coach-box or in stables. Surely those who, by their rank and fortune, are called to adorn courts, ought at least not to disgrace them by their manners.

But I observe, with concern, that it is the fashion for our youth, of both sexes, to brand good-breeding with the name of ceremony and formality. As such, they ridicule and explode it, and adopt in its stead an offensive carelessness and inattention, to the diminution, I will venture to say, even of their own pleasures, if they know what true pleasures are.

Love and friendship necessarily produce, and justly authorize familiarity; but then good-breeding must mark out its bounds, and say, 'thus far shalt thou go, and no further;' for I have known many a passion and many a friendship degraded, weakened, and at last, if I may use the expression, wholly slatterned away by an unguarded and illiberal familiarity. Nor is good-breeding less the ornament and cement of common, social life; it con-

nects, it endears, and at the same time that it indulges the just liberty, restrains that indecent licentiousness of conversation, which alienates and provokes. Great talents make a man famous, great merit makes him respected, and great learning makes him esteemed ; but good-breeding alone can make him beloved.

I recommend it, in a more particular manner, to my countrywomen as the greatest ornament to such of them as have beauty, and the safest refuge for those who have not. It facilitates the victories, decorates the triumphs, and secures the conquests of beauty ; or in some degree atones for the want of it. It almost deifies a fine woman, and procures respect at least to those who have not charms enough to be admired.

Upon the whole, though good-breeding cannot, strictly speaking, be called a virtue, yet it is productive of so many good effects, that, in my opinion, it may justly be reckoned more than a mere accomplishment.

No. 149. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1755.

Cantantes licèt usque, minùs via ledet eamus.

VIRG. ECL. IX. 64.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ I DO not know that you, or any of your predecessors, have ever paid your compliments to a most useful branch of this community; I mean the ancient and reputable society of Ballad-singers. These harmonious itinerants do not cheat the country-people with idle tales of being taken by the Turks, or maimed by the Algerines, but earn an honest livelihood by a proper exertion of those talents with which nature has endowed them. For if a brawny-shouldered porter may live by turning prize-fighter, or a gentleman of the same make, by turning petticoat-pensioner, I do not see why a person endued with the gift of a melodious voice is not equally entitled to all the advantages which can possibly arise from it.

“ With regard to the antiquity of this profession, in all probability, we owe the invention of it to old Homer himself, who hawked his *Iliad* about the streets for an *obolus* a book. But as the trade was not then brought into any repute, and as his poetry wanted the refinement of modern times, he could scarce earn bread for himself and his family. Thespis, the Athenian, made a great improvement in the art; he harnessed Pegasus to a cart, from which he

dispersed his ballads; and by keeping all the public fairs, made shift to pick up a tolerable maintenance. This improvement our English ballad-singers have neglected; whether they think there is any thing really ominous in mounting a cart, or whether the sneers of the populace, who are always throwing out their insolent jests on their superiors, have prevented them from making use of that vehicle, I will not pretend to determine.

“Among the Romans, too, this practice was preserved. Virgil makes one of his shepherds say to another, by way of reproach,

—*Non tu in triviis, indocte, solebas,
Stridenti miserum stipulâ disperdere carmen?* ECL. iii. 26.

But this was because, as Milton translates it, ‘his lean and flashy songs grated on his scrannel pipe of wretched straw.’ But this never can be objected to my fair countrywomen, whose melodious voices give every syllable not of a lean and flashy, but of a fat and plump song, its just emphasis, to the delight and instruction of the attentive audience. By the way, I suspect that Virgil was a hawker himself; for he says,

Ascraeumque cano Romana per oppida carmen;
GEORG. ii. 176.

which, in plain English, is no more than this,

I sing my ballads through the streets of Rome.

“Were it not for this musical society, the country-people would never know how the world of letters goes on. Party songs might come out, and the parson never see them; jovial songs, and the squire never hear them; or love songs, and his daughter

never sigh over them. I would have a ballad-singer well furnished with all these before she sets out on her travels; then bloody murders for school-boys and apprentices, conundrums and conjuring books for footmen and maid-servants, histories and story-books for young masters and misses, will turn to an excellent account. And as the trades of ballad-singing and fortune-telling generally go together in the country, like surgeon and apothecary, I think it would not be amiss if their friends, the poets, would furnish them with rhymes suited to the occasion, that their predictions may wear the true mask of oracles, and, like those of the Sibyls, be given out in metre. And, to come still nearer to the original, a joint-stool would make an excellent tripod.

“Useless as this profession may seem, it serves to support two others; I mean the worshipful and numerous companies of printers who have no business, and poets who have no genius. A good song, that is, a very good song, ‘I love Sue,’ for instance, or ‘Colin and Phœbe,’ will run you through fifty editions; but let it be never so good, it will always give way to a newer; so that the printer has, by this means, constant employment for his press, which would otherwise be idle, and the poet a constant market for his wit, which would otherwise live and die with its author, in obscurity.

“As I have a great regard for these itinerant sirens, not arising from any personal favours that I have received from them, nor founded on whim and fancy, but from a well-weighed consideration of their service to the public, I have thought of a scheme, which will at once both ennoble their profession, and render their lives infinitely more comfortable. It is this: Many professors of music, whose talents have shamefully been neglected in

town, for, in these degenerate days, men of merit are but little regarded, condescend, for the amusement of the country-people, to enliven the humours of the wake with violins, dulcimers, harpinets, &c. With these ingenious gentlemen I would persuade our fair ballad-singers to incorporate. Some few misfortunes they have indeed met with, which I think myself obliged, in honour, to reveal; and those are, the loss of eyes, legs, and other trifles, which a prudent, thinking woman would disregard, when overbalanced by such excellent qualifications. The expense of children may possibly be urged as an objection to this scheme; but I answer, that children will, of necessity, come, whether our ballad-singing ladies are married or not; and while the parents are mutually travelling with the younger at their backs, the elder will, in all probability, be able to walk; so that they may get a reputable livelihood, by the lawful profession of begging till such time as they are of a proper age to learn the rudiments of music under the tuition of their father. But pilfering I would, by all means, have them avoid; it hurts the credit of the profession.

“Now what a comfortable life must this be! A perpetual concert of vocal and instrumental music! And if Orpheus, with only his lyre, drew after him beasts and trees, by which people are apt to imagine that nothing more is meant than the country bumpkins, what will not the melodious fiddle of one of these professors do, when in unison with the voice of his beautiful helpmate?

“As for the marriage act, and guardians’ consent, and such new-fangled stuff, I would by no means have them pay any regard to it. For as the ladies, when in town for the winter season, are generally resident about Fleet-Ditch, a certain public-spirited

clergyman, who lodges in that neighbourhood, and whom I would by all means recommend, will tack together half a dozen couple at a minute's warning, and the parliament be never the wiser.

“I am, Sir,

“Your most humble servant,

“T. D.”

Whereas two letters signed A. Z. have been lately sent to Mr. Fitz-Adam; the first containing a very witty, but wanton abuse of a lady of great worth and distinction; the second full of scurrilous resentment against Mr. Fitz-Adam for not publishing the said letter; this is to acquaint the writer of it that, till his manners bear some little proportion to his wit, he cannot be admitted a correspondent in this paper.

No. 150. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1755.

“TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“SIR,

“HAVING observed, of late years, that our young gentlemen are endeavouring to rival the ladies in all the refinements and delicacies of dress, and are ornamenting the bosoms of their shirts with jewels; I have, for the good of my country, and the emolument of my own sex, been contriving a method of rendering jewels of use, as well as ornament, to

the male part of the human species. It was an ancient custom in several of the Eastern countries, and is the practice of some few nations at this very day, for women to wear jewels in their noses ; but I am of opinion, that as affairs now stand, it would not be improper to have this elegant piece of finery transferred from the ladies to the gentlemen.

“ It must, indeed, be acknowledged that this custom of ornamenting the nose has nowhere prevailed but in those heathenish and barbarous nations where the women are kept in constant subjection to their husbands ; and therefore I suppose it took its origin from the tyrannical institution of the men, who put a ring in the wife’s nose, as an emblem of her slavery. I apprehend, also, that the wife, when she found she was to be rung, very wisely made a virtue of necessity, and added jewels to the ring, which served two purposes at once, that of making it costly to the husband, and rendering it ornamental to herself. But as in these politer and more Christian countries, the barbarous institution of obedience from wives to husbands has been entirely laid aside, the ladies have judged it proper to throw off this badge of their subjection. And, as in many instances, our young ladies and young gentlemen seem inclinable to invert the order of nature, and to recommend manly airs to the female sex, and effeminate behaviour to the men, I think it advisable to comply with the just sentiments of the present generation, and, as I said before, to transfer this ornamental part of dress from the noses of the ladies to the noses of the men.

“ I find myself, indeed, inclinable to carry this institution of the ring a little further, and would have every man whatsoever, whether married or unmarried, if he be of a right non-resisting and pas-

sively-obedient disposition, to be well rung. And for this use I would have a particular sort of nose-jewel invented, and established by public authority, which, by the emblem or device that was engraven upon it, should express the kind of subjection to which the wearer was inclined to submit. And when these passive gentry were all enrolled under their proper banners they might, annually, choose some one person of distinguished merit, who should be styled, for the time being, grand master of the most honourable order of the ring.

“There was a time when all the laity of the whole Christian world ought to have worn rings in their noses; and if the device had been a triple crown, it would not have been unexpressive.

“The gentlemen of the army have sometimes taken it into their heads to ring everybody about them; and we have had instances how able they have been, by the help of these rings, to lead both houses of parliament by the nose. The device engraved on those nose-jewels was, The Protector. At present, indeed, it is thought that the gentlemen of the law have a great superiority over the gentlemen of the army, and that they are preparing rings for all the noses in these kingdoms, under the well-conceived device of Liberty and Property.

“It has been a maxim of long standing among statesmen, never to employ any person whatsoever who will not bear being rung; and as this very much depends on the shape of the nose, which ought to be of such a disposition as not to be refractory to a perforation, I would, in a particular manner, recommend it to all leaders of parties to make the knowledge of the human nose a principal object of their study; since it is manifest that many of them have found themselves grievously disappointed, when

they have presumed to count noses, without a sufficient investigation of this useful science.

“As I have, for many years, taken much pains in the study of physiognomy, I shall, for the good of my country, communicate, through the channel of your paper, some of those many observations which I have made on that remarkable feature called the nose; for, as this is the most prominent part of the face, it seems to be erected as a sign on which was to be represented the particular kind of ware that was to be disposed of within doors. Hence it was that, amongst the old Romans, very little regard was paid to a man without a nose; not only as there was no judgment to be made of the sentiments of such a person, but as, in their public assemblies, when they came to reckon noses, he must, of consequence, be always omitted out of the account.

“Among these ancient Romans the great offices of state were all elective, which obliged them to be very observant of the shape of the noses of those persons to whom they were to apply for votes. Horace tells us that the sharp nose was looked upon as an indication of satirical wit and humour; for when speaking of his friend Virgil, though he says, *At est bonus, ut melior vir non alius quisquam*, yet he allows that he was no joker, and not a fit match at the sneer for those of his companions who had sharper noses than his own. *Minus aptus*, says he, *acutis naribus horum hominum*. They also looked upon the short nose, with a little inflection at the end tending upwards, as a mark of the owner's being addicted to jibing; for the same author, talking of Mæcenas, says, that though he was born of an ancient family, yet he was not apt to turn persons of low birth into ridicule, which he expresses by saying that he had not a turn-up nose. *Nec naso suspendis*

adunco. Martial, in one of his epigrams, calls this kind of nose the rhinocerotie nose, and says that every one in his time affected this kind of snout, as an indication of his being master of the talent of humour. But a good statesman will hardly think it worth his while to spend nose-jewels upon such persons, unless it be to serve them as you do swine, when you ring them, only to keep them from rooting.

“The Greeks had a very bad opinion of the flat nose. The remarkable story of Socrates and the physiognomist is too well known to be particularly repeated; but I cannot help observing that the most particular feature in the face of Socrates was his nose, which, being very flat, with a little inflection upwards towards the end, caused the physiognomist to pronounce him a drunken, impudent, and lustful person; which the philosopher acknowledged to be a true character of him, in his natural state.

“The Hebrews looked upon this kind of nose to be so great a blemish in a man’s character, that though of the lineage of Aaron, his having a flat nose was, by the express command of Moses, an absolute exclusion from the sacerdotal office. On the other hand, they held long noses in the highest esteem, as the certain indication of a meek and patient mind. Hence it is that in the Book of Proverbs, the original words, which literally signify he that has a long nose, are, in our English translation, and by all interpreters, rendered, he that is slow to wrath; and the words which signify he that has a short nose, are always translated, he that is soon angry, or hasty of spirit. I shall only remark upon this, that the Welch, who are by no means the slowest to anger, have generally short noses.

“The elephant is, of all animals, the most docible and servile; and everybody knows how remarkable

that creature is for the length of his snout. Though sometimes it happens that he is not altogether so patient of injuries as might be wished. Hamilton, in his travels to the East Indies, tells us of an elephant of Surat, that was passing, with his keeper, to his watering-place through the streets of that city, who seeing the window open of a tailor's shop, and thrusting in his trunk in search of provision, received an affront from the needle of the tailor, as he was sitting at his work. The story adds, that the elephant went soberly on to water, and, after drinking his usual draught, drew up a great quantity of mud into his trunk, and returning by the window of the tailor, discharged an inundation of it on his work-board. This was, I own, an unlucky trick ; but we ought not to have a worse opinion of long noses, in general, for the sake of one such story, the like of which may not probably happen again in a whole century.

“ I have many more curious observations to make on the various kind of noses, which, for fear of exceeding the bounds of your paper, I shall reserve to another opportunity, when I intend to descant at large on the method of ringing them ; for some men are of such untoward and restive dispositions that they are, like the leviathan mentioned by Job, into whose nose there is no putting a hook, as our translators render it, but the original word signifies a ring.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most humble servant.”

No. 151. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1755.

I WAS lately subpoenaed by a card, to a general assembly at Lady Townly's, where I went so awkwardly early that I found nobody but the five or six people who had dined there, and who, for want of hands enough to play, were reduced to the cruel necessity of conversing till something better should offer. Lady Townly observed, with concern and impatience, that people of fashion now came intolerably late, and in a glut at once, which laid the lady of the house under great difficulties to make the parties properly. That, no doubt, said Manly, is to be lamented; and the more so, as it seems to give your ladyship some concern; but in the mean time, for want of something better to do, I should be glad to know the true meaning of a term that you have just made use of, people of fashion; I confess I have never yet had a precise and clear idea of it; and I am sure I cannot apply more properly for information, than to this company, which is most unquestionably composed of people of fashion, whatever people of fashion may be. I therefore beg to know the meaning of that term; what are they, who are they, and what constitutes, I had almost said, anoints them people of fashion? These questions, instead of receiving immediate answers, occasioned a general silence of above a minute, which perhaps was the result of the whole company's having discovered, for the first time, that they had long and often made use of a term which they had never un-

derstood ; for a little reflection frequently produces those discoveries. Belinda first broke this silence by saying, one knows well enough who are meant by people of fashion, though one does not just know how to describe them ; they are those that one generally lives with ; they are people of a certain sort — They certainly are so, interrupted Manly ; but the point is, of what sort ? If you mean by people of a certain sort, yourself, which is commonly the meaning of those who make use of that expression, you are indisputably in the right, as you have all the qualifications that can, or, at least, ought to constitute and adorn a woman of fashion. But pray, must all women of fashion have all your accomplishments ? If so, the myriads of them which I had imagined, from what I heard every day and everywhere, will dwindle into a handful. Without having those accomplishments which you so partially allow me, answered Belinda, I still pretend to be a woman of fashion ; a character, which I cannot think requires an uncommon share of talents or merit. That is the very point, replied Manly, which I want to come at ; and therefore give me leave to question you a little more particularly. You have some advantages which even your modesty will not allow you to disclaim, such as your birth and fortune ; do they constitute you a woman of fashion ? As Belinda was going to answer, Bellair partly interposed, and said, Neither, to be sure, Mr. Manly ; if birth constituted fashion, we must look for it in that inestimable treasure of useful knowledge, the peerage of England ; or if wealth, we should find the very best at the Bank, and at Garraway's. Well then, Bellair, said Manly, since you have taken upon you to be Belinda's sponsor, let me ask you two or three questions, which you can more properly answer than she

could. Is it her beauty? By no means, neither, replied Bellair; for, at that rate, there might perhaps be a woman of fashion with a gold chain about her neck in the city, or with a fat amber necklace in the country; prodigies, as yet unheard of and unseen. Is it then her wit and good-breeding? continued Manly. Each contributes, answered Bellair, but both would not be sufficient, without a certain *je ne sai quoi*, a something or other that I feel better than I can explain. Here Dorimant, who had sat all this time silent, but looked mischievous; said, I could say something — Ay, and something very impertinent, according to custom, answered Belinda; so hold your tongue, I charge you. You are singularly charitable, Belinda, replied Dorimant, in being so sure that I was going to be impertinent, only because I was going to speak. Why this suspicion of me? Why! because I know you to be an odious, abominable creature, upon all subjects of this kind. This amicable quarrel was put an end to by Harriet, who on a sudden, and with her usual vivacity, cried out, I am sure I have it now, and can tell you exactly what people of fashion are; they are just the reverse of your odd people. Very possibly, madam, answered Manly, and therefore I could wish that you would give yourself the trouble of defining odd people; and so by the rule of contraries, help us to a true notion of people of fashion. Ay, that I can very easily do, said Harriet. In the first place, your odd people are those that one never lets in, unless one is at home, to the whole town. A little more particular, dear Harriet, interrupted Manly. So I will, said Harriet, for I hate them all. There are several sorts of them. Your prudes, for instance, who respect and value themselves upon the unblemished purity of their characters; who rail at

the indecency of the times, censure the most innocent freedoms, and suspect the lord knows what, if they do but observe a close and familiar whisper between a man and a woman, in a remote corner of the room. There are, besides, a sober, formal, sort of married women, insipid creatures, who lead domestic lives, and who can be merry, as they think, at home, with their own and their husband's relations, particularly at Christmas. Like turtles, they are true and tender to their lawful mates, and breed like rabbits, to beggar and perpetuate their families. These are very odd women, to be sure ; but deliver me from your severe and august dowagers, who are the scourges of people of fashion, by infesting all public places, in order to make their spiteful remarks. One meets them everywhere, and they seem to have the secret of multiplying themselves into ten different places at once. Their poor horses, like those of the sun, go round the world every day, baiting only at eleven in the morning, and six in the evening, at their parish churches. They speak as movingly of their poor late lords, as if they had ever cared for one another ; and, to do them honour, repeat some of the many silly things they used to say. Lastly, there are your maiden ladies of riper years, orphans of distinction, who live together by twos and threes, who club their stocks for a neat little house, a lightbodied coach, and a footboy — And, added Bellair, quarrel every day about the dividend. True, said Harriet, they are not the sweetest-tempered creatures in the world ; but, after all, one must forgive them some malignity, in consideration of their disappointments. Well, have I now described odd people to your satisfaction ? Admirably, answered Manly ; and so well that one can, to a great degree at least, judge of their antipodes, the people

of fashion. But still, there seems something wanting ; for the present account, by the rule of contraries, stands only thus ; that women of fashion must not care for their husbands, must not go to church, and must not have unblemished, or at least unsuspected reputations. Now, though all these are very commendable qualifications, it must be owned they are but negative ones, and consequently there must be some positive ones necessary to complete so amiable a character. I was going to add, interrupted Harriet, which, by the way, was more than I engaged for, that people of fashion were properly those who set the fashions, and who gave the ton of dress, language, manners, and pleasures to the town. I admit it, said Manly ; but what I want still to know is, who gave them that power, or did they usurp it ? for, by the nature of that power, it does not seem to me to admit of a succession, by hereditary and divine right. Were I allowed to speak, said Dorimant, perhaps I could both shorten and clear up this case. But I dare not, unless Belinda, to whom I profess implicit obedience, gives me leave. E'en let him speak, Belinda, said Harriet ; I know he will abuse us, but we are used to him. Well, say your say then, said Belinda. See what an impertinent sneer he has already. Upon this Dorimant, addressing himself more particularly to Belinda, and smiling, said,

—Then think
That he, who thus commanded dares to speak,
Unless commanded, would have died in silence.

O, your servant, Sir, said Belinda ; that fit of humility will, I am sure, not last long ; but, however, go on. I will, to answer Manly's question, said Dorimant, which, by the way, has something the air of a catechism. Who made these people of fash-

ion? I give this short and plain answer; they made one another. The men, by their attentions and credit, make the women of fashion; and the women, by either their supposed or real favours, make the men such. They are mutually necessary to each other. Impertinent enough of all conscience, said Belinda. So, without the assistance of you fashionable men, what should we poor women be? Why faith, replied Dorimant, but odd women, I doubt, as we should be but odd fellows without your friendly aid to fashion us. In one word, a frequent and reciprocal collision of the two sexes is absolutely necessary to give each that high polish which is properly called fashion. Mr. Dorimant has, I own, said Manly, opened new and important matter; and my scattered and confused notions seem now to take some form, and tend to a point. But as examples always best clear up abstruse matters, let us now propose some examples of both sorts, and take the opinions of the company upon them. For instance, I will offer one to your consideration. Is Berynthia a woman of fashion or not? The whole company readily, and almost at once, answered, doubtless she is. That may be, said Manly, but why? For she has neither birth nor fortune, and but small remains of beauty. All that is true, I confess, said Belinda; but she is well drest, well-bred, good-humoured, and always ready to go with one anywhere. Might I presume, said Dorimant, to add a title, and perhaps the best to her claims of fashion, I should say that she was of Belville's creation, who is the very fountain of honour of that sort. He dignified her by his addresses; and those who have the good fortune to share his reputation—Have, said Belinda, with some warmth, the misfortune to lose their own. I told you, turning to

Harriet, what would happen if we allowed him to speak ; and just so it has happened ; for the gentleman has almost, in plain terms, asserted that a woman cannot be a woman of fashion till she has lost her reputation. Fie, Belinda, how you wrong me, replied Dorimant ! Lost her reputation ! Such a thought never entered into my head ; I only meant mislaid it. With a very little care she will find it again. There you are in the right, said Bellair ; for it is most certain that the reputation of a woman of fashion should not be too muddy. True, replied Dorimant, nor too limpid neither ; it must not be mere rock-water, cold and clear ; it should sparkle a little. Well, said Harriet, now that Berynthia is unanimously voted a woman of fashion, what think you of Loveit ? Is she, or is she not one ? If she is one, answered Dorimant, I am very much mistaken if it is not of Mirable's creation.—By writ, I believe, said Bellair ; for I saw him give her a letter one night at the opera. But she has other good claims too, added Dorimant. Her fortune, though not large, is easy ; and nobody fears certain applications from her. She has a small house of her own, which she has fitted up very prettily, and is often at home, not to crowds indeed, but to people of the best fashion, from twenty, occasionally down to two ; and, let me tell you, that nothing makes a woman of Loveit's sort better received abroad than being often at home. I own, said Bellair, that I looked upon her rather as a genteel led-captain, a postscript to women of fashion. Perhaps, too, sometimes the cover, answered Dorimant, and if so, an equal. You may joke as much as you please upon poor Loveit, but she is the best-humoured creature in the world ; and I maintain her to be a woman of fashion ; for, in short, we all roll with her, as the

soldiers say. I want to know, said Belinda, what you will determine upon a character very different from the last two, I mean Lady Loveless; is she a woman of fashion? Dear Belinda, answered Harriet, hastily, how could she possibly come into your head? Very naturally, said Belinda; she has birth, beauty, and fortune; she is genteel and well-bred. I own it, said Harriet; but still, she is handsome without meaning, well shaped without air, genteel without graces, and well drest without taste. She is such an insipid creature, she seldom comes about, but lives at home with her lord, and so domestically tame, that she eats out of his hand, and teaches her young ones to peck out of her own. Odd, very odd, take my word for it. Ay, mere rock-water, said Dorimant, and, as I told you an hour ago, that will not do. No, most certainly, added Bellair, all that reserve, simplicity, and coldness can never do. It seems to me rather that the true composition of people of fashion, like that of Venice treacle, consists of an infinite number of fine ingredients, but all of the warm kind. Truce with your filthy treacle, said Harriet; and, since the conversation has hitherto chiefly turned upon us poor women, I think we have a right to insist upon the definition of you men of fashion. No doubt on't, said Dorimant; nothing is more just, and nothing more easy. Allowing some small difference for modes and habits, the men and the women of fashion are, in truth, the counterparts of each other; they fit like tallies, are made of the same wood, and are cut out for one another. As Dorimant was going on, probably to illustrate his assertion, a valet de chambre proclaimed, in a solemn manner, the arrival of the duchess dowager of Mattadore, and her three daughters, who were immediately followed by Lord

Formal, Sir Peter Plausible, and divers others of both sexes, and of equal importance. The lady of the house, with infinite skill and indefatigable pains, soon peopled the several card-tables, with the greatest propriety, and to universal satisfaction; and the night concluded with slams, honours, best-games, pairs, pair-royals, and all other such rational demonstrations of joy.

For my own part, I made my escape as soon as I possibly could, with my head full of that most extraordinary conversation which I had just heard, and which, from having taken no part in it, I had attended to the more, and retained the better. I went straight home, and immediately reduced it into writing, as I here offer it for the present edification of my readers. But as it has furnished me with great and new lights, I propose, as soon as possible, to give the public a new and complete system of ethies, founded upon these principles of people of fashion; as, in my opinion, they are better calculated than any others for the use and instruction of all private families.

No. 152. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1755.

*Floriferis ut apes in saltibus omnia libant,
Omnia nos itidem depascimur aurea dicta.*

LUCRET.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ I HAVE, for a long time past, had a strong inclination upon me to become one of your correspondents ; but, from the habits contracted from this place of my education and residence, I have felt a certain timidity in my constitution, which has hitherto restrained me, pardon the expression, from venturing into the world. However, when I reflect that Oxford, as well as her sister Cambridge, has always been distinguished with the title of one of the eyes of England, I cannot suppose that you will pay so little respect to so valuable a part of the microcosm, as to reject my letter with disdain, merely because it comes dated to you from this ancient seat of learning ; especially, as I assure you, you shall see nothing in it that shall savour at all of that narrow and unsociable spirit, which was heretofore the characteristic of the productions of the college.

“ No, Mr. Fitz-Adam, though learning itself be my subject, I will not treat of it in a manner that shall disgust the politest of your readers ; and though I write from a place, which, within the memory of many now living, enjoyed in some sort the monopoly of it, yet I will not lament the loss of that

privilege, but am, with Moses, thoroughly contented that all the Lord's people should be prophets.

“ Indeed, the main business I am upon is to congratulate the great world on that diffusion of science and literature, which, for some years, has been spreading itself abroad upon the face of it. A revolution this, in the kingdom of learning, which has introduced the levelling principle with much better success than ever it met with in politics. The old fenees have been happily broken down, the trade has been laid open, and the old repositories, or store-houses, are now no longer necessary or useful, for the purpose of managing or conducting it. They have had their day ; and very good custom and encouragement they had, while that day lasted ; but surely our sons, or, at furthest, our grandsons, will be much surprised when they are told for what purposes they were built and endowed by our ancestors, and at how vast an expense the journeymen and factors, belonging to them, were maintained by the public, merely to supply us with what may now be had from every coffee-house, and Robin-Hood assembly. In short, it has fared with learning, as with our pine-apples. At their first introduction amongst us, the manner of raising them was a very great secret, and little less than a mystery. The expenses of compost, hot-houses, and attendance, were prodigious, and at last, at a great price, they were introduced to the tables of a few of the nobility and gentry. But how common are they grown of late ! Every gardener, that used to pride himself in an early cucumber, can now raise a pine-apple ; and one need not despair of seeing them sold at six a penny in Covent Garden, and become the common treat of tailors and hackney-coachmen.

“ The university of London, it is agreed, ought to

be allowed the chief merit of this general dissemination of learning and knowledge. The students of that amply body, as they are less straitened by rules and statutes, have been much more communicative than those of other learned societies. It seems, indeed, to be their established principle to let nothing stay long by them. Whatever they collect, in the several courses of their studies, they immediately give up again for the service of the public. Hence that profusion of historians, politicians, and philosophers, with whose works we are daily amused and instructed. I am told there is not a bookseller within a mile of Temple-Bar, who has not one or two of these authors constantly in his pay, who are ready, at the word of command, to write a book of any size, upon any subject. And yet, I never heard that any of these gentlemen ever drank, in a regular manner, of the waters of Helicon, or endeavoured to trace out that spring, by the stream of Cam, or Isis.

“ But it is not merely the regular book, or legitimate treatise, which has thus abounded with learning and science ; but our loose papers and pamphlets, periodical as well as occasional, are, for their bulk, equally profuse of instruction. Monthly magazines, which, some years since, were nothing more than collections to amuse and entertain, are now become the magazines of universal knowledge. Astronomy, history, mathematics, antiquities, and the whole mystery of inscriptions and medals, may now be had, fresh and fresh, at the most easy rates from the repositories of any of these general undertakers. What an advantage is this to the modern student, to have his mess of learning thus carved out for him, at proper seasons and intervals, in quantities that will not overcloy his stomach, or be too expensive to his pocket ! How greatly preferable,

both for cheapness and utility, is this method of study, to that of proposing a whole system to his view, in all the horrid formalities of a quarto or folio! Much praise and honour are undoubtedly due to the celebrated Mr. Amos Wenman, for reducing the price of punch, and suiting it to the capacities and circumstances of all his Majesty's subjects; and shall not that self-taught philosopher, Mr. Benjamin Martin, the great retailer of the sciences, come in for some share of our acknowledgment and commendation?

"I expect to be told, for indeed the objection is obvious enough, that since the streams of learning have been thus generally diffusive, they have, in consequence of that diffusion, been proportionably shallow. Now, notwithstanding the prejudice which may still prevail with a few grave and solemn mortals, against the shallowness of our modern learning, I should be glad to know what good purpose was ever served by all that profundity of science, which they and our ancestors seem so fond of. It was, as is allowed on all hands, confined to a very few of the candidates for literary reputation; and the many, who aimed at a share of it, waded out of their depths, and became a sacrifice to their own useless ambition. On the contrary, no one that I know of, ever had his head turned, or his senses drowned, in the philosophy of a magazine, or the critique of a newspaper. And thus the stream, which lay useless when confined within its banks, or was often dangerous to those who endeavoured to fathom the bottom of it, has, by being drained off into the smaller rills and channels, both fertilized and adorned the whole face of the country. And hence, Mr. Fitz-Adam, have risen those exuberant crops of readers as well as writers. The idea of being a

reader, or a man given to books, had heretofore something very solemn and frightful in it. It conveyed the notion of severity, moroseness, and unacquaintance with the world. But this is not the case at present. The very deepest of our learning may be read, if not understood, by the men of dress and fashion; and the ladies themselves may converse with the abtrusest of our philosophy with great ease, and much to their instruction.

“To say the truth, the men of this generation have discovered that what their fathers called solid learning, is a useless and cumbersome accomplishment, incommodious to the man who is possessed of it, and disgusting to all who approach him. Something, however, of the sort, that sits light and easy upon us, we are willing to attain to; but surely, for this, there is no need of going to the expense of massy bullion, when our own leaf-gold, or a little foreign lacker will answer the purpose full as well, and make a better figure in the world.

“Give me leave, Mr. Fitz-Adam, to conclude with my congratulations to this place of academical education, on some happy symptoms I have lately observed, from whence it should appear that the manufacture of modern learning may, one day, be able to gain some footing amongst us. The disadvantages it lies under, from ancient forms and establishments, are, it is true, very great; the general inclination, I own, is still against it; and the geniuses of our governors are, perhaps, as deep and as solid as ever; but yet, I hope, we have a set of young gentlemen now rising, who will be able to overcome all difficulties, and give a politer turn to the discipline and studies of the university. I can already assure you that the students of this new sect amongst us have advanced so far as to make

the coffee-houses the chief and only places of application to their studies. The productions of your London authors are here taken in, as we call it, by subscription; and, by this means, the deepest learning of the age may be dived into at the small price of two or three shillings by the year. Thus the expenses of university education are reduced, and the pockets of the young men are no longer picked by those harpies, the booksellers.

“I can see but one reason to suspect the probability of their not gaining a sure and certain settlement amongst us; and that is, the great shyness which is observed in all these gentlemanly students, with regard to the old-fashioned languages of Greek and Latin. The avenues to our foundations are, hitherto, secured by guards detached from the ancients. Our friends, therefore, cannot very safely enter into the competitions at college elections, where these are always retained against them. But who knows what time may bring forth? Fellows of colleges themselves may reform, and become mere moderns in their learning, as well as in their dress, and other accomplishments. I could, even now, point out some of these, who are better acquainted with the writings of Petrarch, Guarini, and Metastasio, than with those of Homer and Horace; and know more of Copernicus and Sir Isaac Newton, from the accounts given of them by Fontenelle, Voltaire, and Pemberton, than from the original works of those two philosophers. But I shall say no more at present, for fear of betraying that interest, which it is the sincere purpose of this letter to improve and advance.

“I am, Sir,

“Your most humble servant,

“NEO-ACADEMICUS.”

“Oxford, November 11th, 1755.”

No. 153. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1755.

HAVING been frequently pressed by Sir John Jolly, an old friend of mine, possessed of a fine estate, a large park, and a plentiful fortune, to pass a few weeks with him in the country, I determined last autumn to accept his invitation, proposing to myself the highest pleasure from changing the noise and hurry of this bustling metropolis, for the agreeable silence and soothing indolence of a rural retirement. I accordingly set out one morning, and pretty early on the next arrived at the habitation of my friend, situated in a most delicious and romantic spot, which, the owner having fortunately no taste, is not yet defaced with improvements. On my approach, I abated a little of my travelling pace, to look round me, and admire the towering hills, and fertile vales, the winding streams, the stately woods, and spacious lawns, which gilded by the sunshine of a beautiful morning, on every side afforded a most enchanting prospect; and I pleased myself with the thoughts of the happy hours I should spend amidst these pastoral scenes, in reading, in meditation, or in soft repose, inspired by the lowing of distant herds, the falls of waters, and the melody of birds.

I was received with a hearty welcome, and many shakes of the hand, by my old friend, whom I had not seen for many years, except once, when he was called to town by a prosecution in the King's bench, for misunderstanding the sense of an act of parlia-

ment, which, on examination, was found to be nonsense. He is an honest gentleman of a middle age, a hale constitution, good natural parts, and abundant spirits, a keen sportsman, an active magistrate and a tolerable farmer, not without some ambition of acquiring a seat in parliament, by his interest in a neighbouring borough ; so that between his pursuits of game, of justice, and popularity, besides the management of a large quantity of land, which he keeps in his own hands, as he terms it, for amusement, every moment of his time is sufficiently employed. His wife is an agreeable woman, of about the same age, and has been handsome ; but though years have somewhat impaired her charms, they have not in the least her relish for company, cards, balls, and all manner of public diversions.

On my arrival, I was first conducted into the breakfast-room, which, with some surprise, I saw quite filled with genteel persons of both sexes, in dishabille, with their hair in papers ; the cause of which I was quickly informed of, by the many apologies of my lady for the meanness of the apartment she was obliged to allot me : ' By reason the house was so crowded with company during the time of their races, which,' she said, ' began that very day for the whole week, and for which they were immediately preparing.' I was instantly attacked by all present with one voice, or rather with many voices at the same time, to accompany them thither ; to which I made no opposition, thinking it would be attended with more trouble than the expedition itself.

As soon as the ladies and the equipages were ready, we issued forth in a most magnificent cavalcade ; and, after travelling five or six miles through

bad roads, we arrived at the Red Lion, just as the ordinary was making its appearance upon the table. The ceremonials of this sumptuous entertainment, which consisted of cold fish, lean chickens, rusty hams, raw venison, stale game, green fruit, and grapeless wine, destroyed at least two hours, with five times that number of heads, ruffles, and suits of clothes, by the unfortunate effusion of butter and gravy. From hence we proceeded a few miles further to the race-ground, where nothing, I think, extraordinary happened, but that amongst much disorder and drunkenness, few limbs, and no necks, were broken; and, from these Olympic games, which to the great emolument of pickpockets, lasted till it was dark, we galloped back to the town through a soaking shower, to dress for the assembly. But this I found no easy task; nor could I possibly accomplish it, before my clothes were quite dried upon my back; my servant staying behind to settle his bets, and having stowed my portmanteau into the boot of some coach, which he could not find, to save himself both the trouble and indignity of carrying it.

Being at last equipped, I entered the ball-room, where the smell of a stable over which it was built, the savour of the neighbouring kitchen, the fumes of tallow-candles, rum-punch, and tobacco, dispersed over the whole house, and the balsamic effluvias from many sweet creatures who were dancing, with almost equal strength contended for superiority. The company was numerous and well-dressed, and differed not in any respect from that of the most brilliant assembly in London, but in seeming better pleased, and more desirous of pleasing; that is, happier in themselves, and civilier to each other. I observed the door was blocked up the whole night

by a few fashionable young men, whose faces I remembered to have seen about town, who would neither dance, drink tea, play at cards, nor speak to any one, except now and then in whispers to a young lady, who sat in silence at the upper end of the room, in a hat and negligée, with her back against the wall, her arms a-kimbo, her legs thrust out, a sneer on her lips, a scowl on her forehead, and an invincible assurance in her eyes. This lady I had also frequently met with, but could not then recollect where; but have since learnt, that she had been toadeater to a woman of quality, and turned off for too close and presumptuous an imitation of her betters. Their behaviour affronted most of the company, yet obtained the desired effect; for I overheard several of the country ladies say: 'It was pity they were so proud; for to be sure they were prodigious well-bred people, and had an immense deal of wit;' a mistake they could never have fallen into, had these patterns of politeness condescended to have entered into any conversation. Dancing and cards, with the refreshment of cold chickens and negus about twelve, carried us on till daybreak, when our coaches being ready, with much solicitation, and more squeezing, I obtained a place in one, in which no more than six had before artificially seated themselves; and about five in the morning, through many and great perils, we arrived safely at home.

It was now the middle of harvest, which had not a little suffered by our diversions; and therefore our coach-horses were immediately degraded to a cart; and having rested during our fatigues, by a just distribution of things, were now obliged to labour while we were at rest. I mean not in this number to include myself; for, though I hurried immediately to

bed, no rest could I obtain for some time, for the rumbling of carts, and the conversation of their drivers, just under my window. Fatigue at length got the better of all obstacles, and I fell asleep; but had scarce closed my eyes, when I was awaked by a much louder noise, which was that of a whole pack of hounds, with their vociferous attendants, setting out to meet my friend, and some choice spirits, whom we had just left behind at the assembly, and who chose this manner of refreshment after a night's debauch, rather than the more usual and inglorious one of going to bed. These sounds dying away by their distance, I again composed myself to rest; but was presently again roused by more discordant tongues, uttering all the grossness of Drury-lane, and scurrility of Billingsgate. I now waked, indeed, with somewhat more satisfaction, at first thinking, by this unpastoral dialogue, that I was once more returned safe to London; but I soon found my mistake, and understood that these were some innocent and honest neighbours of Sir John's, who were come to determine their gentle disputes before his tribunal, and being ordered to wait till his return from hunting, were resolved to make all possible use of this suspension of justice. It being now towards noon, I gave up all thoughts of sleep, and it was well I did; for I was presently alarmed by a confusion of voices, as loud, though somewhat sweeter than the former. As they proceeded from the parlour under me, amidst much giggling, laughing, squeaking, and screaming, I could distinguish only the few following incoherent words — horrible — frightful — ridiculous — Friesland hen — rouge — Red Lion at Brentford — stays padded — ram's horn — saucy minx — impertinent coxcomb. I started up, dressed me, and went down, where I found the same polite company,

who breakfasted there the day before, in the same attitude, discoursing of their friends, with whom they had so agreeably spent the last night, and to whom they were again hastening with the utmost impatience. I was saluted with how-d'ye from them all the same instant, and again pressed into the service of the day.

In this manner I went through the persecutions of the whole week, with the sufferings and resolution, but not with the reward of a martyr, as I found no peace at the last; for the conclusion of it, Sir John obligingly requested me to make my stay with him as long as I possibly could, assuring me, that though the races were now over, I should not want diversions; for that next week he expected Lord Rattle, Sir Harry Bumper, and a large fox-hunting party; and that the week after, being the full moon, they should pay and receive all their neighbouring visits, and spend their evenings very sociably together; by which is signified, in the country dialect, eating, drinking, and playing at cards all night. My lady added, with a smile, and much delight in her eyes, that she believed they should not be alone one hour in the whole week, and that she hoped I should not think the country so dull and melancholy a place as I expected. Upon this information I resolved to leave it immediately, and told them, I was extremely sorry that I was hindered by particualar business from any longer enjoying so much polite and agreeable company; but that I had received a letter, which made it necessary for me to be in town. My friend said he was no less concerned; but that I must not positively go till after to-morrow; for that he then expected the mayor and aldermen of his corporation, some of whom were facetious companions, and sung well. This determined me to set out

that very evening ; which I did with much satisfaction, and made all possible haste, in search of silence and solitude, to my lodgings next door to a brazier's at Charing-cross.

No. 154. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1755.

STEPPING into a coffee-house in the Strand the other day, I saw a set of young fellows laughing very heartily over an old sessions-paper. The gravity of my appearance would not permit me to make any inquiry about what they were reading ; I therefore waited, with some impatience, for their departure, and as soon as they were gone, took up the paper as it lay open, and found the subject of their mirth to have been the trial of a young lad of seventeen, for robbing a servant-maid of her pockets in St. Paul's churchyard. The evidence of the maid was in the following words : —

‘And please you, my lord, I had been with another maid-servant at Drury-lane playhouse to see *The Country Wife*. A baddish sort of a play, to be sure, it turned out ; and I wish it did not put some wicked thoughts into the head of my fellow-servant ; for she gave me the slip in the playhouse passage, and did not come home all night. So walking all alone by myself through St. Paul's churchyard, the prisoner overtook me, and would needs have a kiss of me. Oho ! young spark, thought I to myself, we have all been at the play, I believe ; but if a kiss

will content you, why e'en take it, and go about your business ; for you shall have nothing more from me, I promise you. This I said to myself, my lord, while the young man was kissing me ; but, my lord, he went on to be quite audacious ; so I stood stock-still against the wall, without so much as speaking a word ; for I had a mind to see how far his impudence would carry him. But, all at once, and please you, when I was thinking of no such thing, crack went my pocket-strings, and away ran the young man with the pockets in his hand. And then I thought it was high time to cry out ; so I roared out murder and stop thief, till the watchman took hold of him, and carried us both before the constable. And please you, my lord, I was never in such a flurry in my life ; for who would have thought of any such thing from so good-looking a young man ? So I stood stock-still, as I told you before, without so much as stirring a finger ; for, as he was so young a man, I had a great curiosity to see how far his impudence would carry him.'

The extreme honesty of this evidence pleased me not a little ; and I could not help thinking that it might afford a very excellent lesson to those of my fair readers, who are sometimes for indulging their curiosity upon occasions where it would be prudence to suppress it, and for holding their tongues when they should be most ready to cry out.

Many a female in genteeler life has, I believe, indulged the same curiosity with this poor girl, without coming off so well, though the thief has never been brought to the Old Bailey for the robbery he has committed ; indeed, the watchmen are usually asleep that should seize upon such thieves, unless it be now-and-then a husband or a father ; but the plunder is never to be restored.

To say the truth, the great destroyer of female honour is curiosity. It was the frailty of our first mother, and has descended in a double portion to almost every individual of her daughters. There are two kinds of it that I would particularly caution my fair countrywomen against ; one is the curiosity above mentioned, that of trying how far a man's impudence will carry him ; and the other, that of knowing exactly their own strength, and how far they may suffer themselves to be tempted, and retreat with honour. I would also advise them to guard their pockets, as well as their persons, against the treachery of men ; for in this age of play, it may be an undetermined point whether their designs are most upon a lady's purse or her honour ; nor indeed is it easy to say, when the attack is made upon the purse, whether it may not be a prelude to a more dangerous theft.

It used formerly to be the practice, when a man had designs upon the virtue of a woman, to insinuate himself into her good graces by taking every opportunity of losing his money to her at cards. But the policy of the times has inverted this practice ; and the way now to make sure of a woman, is to strip her of her money, and run her deeply in debt ; for losses at cards are to be paid one way or other, or there is no possibility of appearing in company ; and of what value is a lady's virtue, if she is always to stay at home with it ?

A very gay young fellow of my acquaintance was complaining to me the other day of his extreme ill-fortune at piquet. He told me that he had a very narrow miss of completely undressing one of the finest women about St. James's, but that unfortunate repique had disappointed him of his hopes. The lady, it seems, had played with him at her own house,

till all her ready money was gone ; and, upon his refusing to proceed with her upon credit, she consented to setting a small sum against her cap, which he won and put into his pocket, and afterwards her handkerchief ; but that staking both cap and handkerchief, and all his winnings, against her tucker, he was most cruelly repiqued when he wanted but two points of the game, and obliged to leave the lady as well dressed as he found her.

This was, indeed, a very critical turn of fortune for the lady ; for if she had gone on losing from top to bottom, what the last stake might have been, I almost tremble to think. I am apprehensive that my friend's impudence would have carried him to greater lengths than the pickpocket's in the trial, and that he would hardly have contented himself with running off with her clothes ; and besides, what modest woman, in such a situation, would object to any concessions, by which she might have recovered her clothes, and put herself into a condition to be seen ?

Since my friend's telling me this story, I have been led into two or three mistakes in walking through the streets and squares of the politer part of this metropolis ; for as I am naturally short-sighted, I have mistaken a well-dressed woman's tailor, whom I have seen coming out of a genteel house with a bundle under his arm, for a gentleman who has had the good fortune to strip the lady of her clothes, and was moving off, in triumph, with his winnings.

To what lengths this new kind of gaming might have been carried, no one can tell, if the ladies had not taken it up in time, and put a stop to beginnings. A prudent man, who knows he is not proof against the temptations of play, will either keep away from

masquerades and ridottos, or lock up his purse in his *escritoire*. But as, among the ladies, the staying at home is an impracticable thing, they have adopted the other caution, and very prudently leave their clothes behind them. Hence it is that, caps, handkerchiefs, tippets, and tuckers are rarely to be met with upon the young and handsome; for as they know their own weakness, and that the men are not always complaisant enough to play with them upon credit, they throw off at their toilets all those coverings which they are in any immediate danger of losing at a *tête-à-tête*.

The ladies will, I hope, think me entitled to their thanks at least, for ascribing to their prudence that nakedness of dress, which inconsiderate and ignorant persons have constantly mistaken for wantonness or indiscretion. At the same time, I would recommend it to all young ladies, who are known to be no gamesters, either to wear a covering on their necks, or to throw a cloak over their shoulders in all public places, lest it should be thought that, by displaying their beauties to attract the eyes of the men, they have a curiosity, like the maid-servant in the trial, to see how far their impudence will carry them.

To conclude, a little seriously, I would entreat my fair readers to leave gaming to the men, and the delicacies of dress to the women of the town. The vigils of the card-table will sully those beauties which they are so desirous of exhibiting; and the want of concealment render them too familiar to be admired. These are common observations, I confess; but it is now the season for repeating and for enforcing them. Loss of time and fortune are the usual mischiefs of play; but the ruin does not always end there; for, however great may be the

paradox, many a woman has been driven to sell her honour, to redeem her credit. But I hope my countrywomen will be warned in time, and that they will study to deserve a better eulogy than was once given in a funeral oration, of a lady who died at a hundred and five, "that, towards the latter part of her life, she was exemplary for her chastity."

No. 155. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1755.

"TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

"SIR,

"I HAVE the honour to sit at the feet of a Gamaliel in this city, in the capacity of a parish-clerk, which office I hold *in commendam* with the employment of an undertaker. The injuries I have suffered are so little cognizable by the laws of the land, till it shall please God to teach our senators so much wisdom as to amend them in this particular, that I have none to whom I can appeal, but The World; to whom I beg that you would please to present this my humble remonstrance and proposal.

"I hope you will excuse the trouble I now give you, not only because I choose to submit myself to the judgment of your court, but as I have reason to believe that the news-writers would not be faithful enough to lay this complaint before the public; these gentlemen being the very parties concerned, and against whom it is to be lodged.

"My case, Sir, is this. As I was one morning

furnishing my head with the news of the day, to my great surprise I read a paragraph, which informed me that a very rich gentleman of our parish died the day before. This startled me, as I had never heard of his illness, and therefore had employed nobody to watch him in his last moments, and to bring me the earliest intelligence of his death, that I might not be wanting in my respects to the family by my condolence, and the offers of my service in paying my last duties to so worthy a master. I was apprehensive, too, lest some sharper looker-out might be beforehand with me, and run away with the job. I therefore whipt on my black coat and white periwig, as fast as I could, to wait on the disconsolate widow. I rung gently at the door, for fear of disturbing her; and, to the footman who opened it, delivered my duty and condolence to his lady, and begged, if she was not provided with an undertaker, that I might have the honour to bury Mr. Deputy.

“The servant gaped and stared, and from the great concern he was under for the loss of his master, as I apprehended, was rendered so stupid, that he seemed not readily to understand what I said. Before I could new-frame my message, to put it, if possible, into more intelligible words, I was myself seized with the utmost horror and confusion, at seeing the apparition of the deceased stalk out of the counting-house, which opened into the passage where I stood. I observed a redness in his countenance, more than was usual in dead people; and indeed, more than he himself was wont to wear when he was alive; and there was a sternness and severity in his features, beyond what I had ever seen in him before. Straight a voice more dreadful than thunder burst out, and in the language of hell, swearing, cursing, calling me a thousand names, and

telling me he would teach me to play tricks with him, he dealt me half a score such substantial blows, as presently convinced me they could proceed from no ghost. I retreated with as much precipitation as I could, for fear of falling myself into the pit, which I hoped to have dug for him.

“Thus, Sir, the wantonness of the newspapers disappointed me of furnishing out a funeral, deprived me of my dues as clerk, got me well thrashed, and will probably lose me the gentleman’s custom forever; for, perhaps, next time he dies, he will order another undertaker to be employed.

“Now, Sir, is it not a shame, that people should thus die daily, and not a single fee come to the clerk of the parish for a burial? and that the news-writers, without commission from his Majesty, or license from Warwick-lane, should kill whom they please, and we not get a shilling to comfort us in the midst of so much mortality?

“There are other inconveniences, though of an inferior consideration, which may attend this dying in print. A young heir at Oxford, just come of age, reads that his father was carried off by an apoplectic fit such a day; catching the lucky minute, he marries that divine creature, his tailor’s daughter, before the news can be contradicted. When it is fear of the old gentleman’s displeasure, makes him bribe his new relations to secrecy for awhile, in process of time, he marries a lady of fortune and family by his father’s directions; Tatterrella raves with all the spirit and dignity of a lady of the British fishery; proves her prior marriage; not only calls, but records Lady Mary a whore; bastardizes the children of the second venter, and old Snip’s grandson runs away with the estate.

“How often have these disturbing papers whirled

up expectants of places to town in their postchaises, to whirl back again, with the old squeeze, and 'I shall not forget you when the place is vacant?' How often has even the reverend divine suffered the violent concussions of a hard-trotting horse for above threescore miles together, to wait on a patron of a benefice vacated by the Evening Post; where he has met with the mortification of smoking a pipe with the incumbent? Perhaps a lady too, whose tenderness and sensibility could not permit her to attend her sick husband to Bath, reads an account of his death in the papers. What shrieks, what faintings, what tears, what inexpressible grief afflicts the poor relict! And when she has mourned in half a week, as much as any reasonable widow would do in a whole year, and, having paid the legacy of sorrow to his memory in three days, which, by the courtesy of England, she might have taken a twelvemonth for, begins to think of a new husband, home comes the old one, and talks in rapture of the virtues of Bath-water. While all the satisfaction the news-writers give this unfeignedly afflicted poor lady, is: 'The death of A. B., Esq., mentioned in these papers last week, proves a mistake.'

"I know but one instance where any regard to us parish-clerks has been had, or our interests in the least taken care of in these temporary and occasional deaths; and that was a gentleman of rank, who was generally reported and allowed for dead. His heirs at law, not caring to bury the real body, for reasons best known to themselves, though one of those reasons might be because it was alive, yet, convinced of the reasonableness that a funeral should follow a demise, dug up a poor drowned sailor out of a hole on the shore, into which he had been tumbled, and, with great solemnity, interred the de-

parted knight by proxy. There was justice in this ; every man had his due. It was acting with the wisdom of an old Athenian.

“ A practice of the Athenians may serve as an answer to such, if any such there are who, from modern prejudices, object to the funerals of people not really dead. Our doctor told us, in one of his sermons upon regeneration, that, among these Athenians, if one who was living were reported to be dead, and funeral obsequies performed for him—which plainly implies their custom of celebrating funerals for persons who were dead in their newspapers, though they were not so in reality,—if afterwards he appeared, and pretended to be alive, he was looked upon as a profane and unlucky person, and no one would keep him company. One who fell under this misfortune, it matters not for his name, though I think the doctor called him Harry Stone-house,* or something like it, consulted the oracle how he might be readmitted among the living; the oracle commanded him to be regenerated, or new christened; which was accordingly done, and grew to be the established method of receiving such persons into community again.

“ And here in England, before the Reformation, as I am informed, it was usual when a rich person died, to celebrate yearly and daily masses, obits, and commemorations for him; so that one who died but once, should be as good as buried a thousand times over; but, among us, it is just the reverse; a man may die here a thousand times, and be buried but once.

“ However, I hate popery, and would not wish the restoration of it; yet, as I hope a Christian

* *Aristeus.*

country will not come behindhand with a heathen one in wisdom and justice, permit me to recommend the practice of the Athenians before mentioned, and petition The World immediately to pass it into a fashion, and ordain that hereafter, every man living, who has been killed in the newspapers, shall account to the clerk of the parish where such decease is reported to have happened; or, if no place is specified, to the clerk of the parish where the person has resided for the greater part of the month preceding, for a burial fee; and also before he is admitted to any ball, rout, assembly, tavern, church, drum, or coffee-house, that he account to the said clerk for his regeneration, or new-christening fee; and in case the report was made without the privity and consent of the party, and if he shall be found not guilty of his own death, that then he shall have a fashionable demand upon the publishers for the recovery of both fees to reimburse himself.

“This, Sir, might put some stop to this very alarming practice, so grievously to the disappointment of widows, heirs, and expectants; or, at least, do some justice to that very respectable, but greatly injured body of parish clerks, to which I have the honour to belong.

“I am, Sir,

“Your most obedient,

“humble servant,

“THOMAS BASSOON.”

No. 156. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1755.

An ideo tantùm veneras, ut exires?

MART. EP. i. 3.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM

“ SIR,

“ As I find you are a person who make the reformation of mankind your care, and stand forth, like another Hercules, to correct the irregularities and indiscretions which folly, vice, or that unmeaning fickle thing, called fashion, give birth to ; I take the liberty of troubling you with my thoughts upon a species of animals, which at present are very numerous, and to be found in all public places of amusement. But though I am going to give you my remarks upon this race of beings, I must confess that I have never yet heard of any appellation by which they are distinguished. The futility, indeed, of the age, has occasioned many ridiculous and contemptible persons to rise up among us, who, without aiming at any laudable purpose, or acting under the dictates of any principle, have formed themselves into clubs and societies, and assumed names and titles, as innocent of sense and meaning as are the persons themselves who bear them. Such are the Bucks, Stags, and Bloods, and many more with which the newspapers have, from time to time, made me acquainted. But the animals which I would now place under your notice, are of a very different kind ; they are, in short, a species of young men, who, from a certain blind impulse, are always ram-

bling up and down this town, and never fail to be present at all places of diversion, without having a taste or capacity to enjoy any.

“Upon my going lately to a capital play, I saw several of them sitting, indeed, with great order and decorum, but so inattentive, so indifferent and unmoved through the whole performance, whilst the rest of the audience were all eye and ear, that they appeared to me to be so many statues. Their behaviour surprised me extremely, and led me at the same time to ask myself for what purpose those young sparks came to a play? and if, like Cato of old, it was ‘only to go away again?’ For if they never attend to what passes before them; if they are not susceptible of those emotions, which a well-wrought scene raises in every feeling breast; if they do not follow the actor through all the sweet delusion of his art; in short, if they do not, as other people do, ‘laugh with those that laugh, and weep with those that weep,’ what business have they there?

“To judge, indeed, by their appearance, one would imagine nothing could make them quit their tea-table and looking-glass. And yet, Sir, no public place is free from them; though, as far as I can judge, the opera-house is their favourite haunt. To reconcile this seeming contradiction, I must inform you, that I have studied and examined them with great attention, and find their whole composition to consist of two ingredients only; these are self-admiration and insensibility; and to these two causes, operating jointly and separately, all their actions must be referred. Hence it is, that they are always to be found in public places, where they go not to see, but to be seen, not to hear, but to be heard. Hence it is that they are so devoted to the opera; and here,

indeed, they seem to be peculiarly directed by that power called instinct; which always prompts every creature to pursue what is best and fittest for it. Now, the opera is to them, if I may use the expression, a very nursing-mother, which feeds them with the pap of its own soft nonsense, and lulls and rocks them to their desired repose. This is, indeed, their proper element, and, as if inspired by the genius of the place, I have sometimes seen them brighten up and appear with an air of joy and satisfaction.

“The mind, as well as the stomach, must have food fitted and prepared to its taste and humour, or it will reject and loath it; now the opera is so good a cook, and knows so well to please the palates of these her guests, that it is wonderful to see with what an appetite they devour whatever she sets before them; nay, so great is their partiality, that the same food drest by another hand shall have no relish; but minced and fritted by this their favourite, shall be delicious. The plain beef and mustard of Shakspeare, though served up by very good cooks, turn their stomachs, while the maccaroni of Rolli, is, in their opinion, a dish fit for the gods. Thus Julius Cæsar, killed by the conspirators, never touches them; but *Julio Chesare*, killing himself, and singing and stabbing, and stabbing and singing till, swan-like, he expires, is *caro caro*, and *divino*. Scipio, the great conqueror of Afric, is, with them, a mighty silly fellow; but *Shippione* is a charming creature. It is evident then, that the food must be suited to the taste, as the taste to the food; and as the waters of a certain fountain of Thessaly, from their benumbing quality, could be contained in nothing but the hoof of an ass, so can this languid and disjointed composition, find no admittance but in

such heads as are expressly formed to receive it. Thus their insensibility appears as well in what they like, as in what they reject; and like a faithful companion, attends them at all times, and in all places; for I have remarked that, wherever they are, they bring

A mind not to be changed by time or place.

However, as a play is the very touchstone of the passions, the neutrality which they so strictly observe, is nowhere so conspicuous as at the theatres. There they are to be seen, one while when tears are flowing all around them, another when the very benches are cracking with peals of laughter, sitting as calm and serene as if they had nothing but their own innocent thoughts to converse with.

“Upon considering their character and temper, as far as they can be guessed at by their actions, and observing the apathy in which they seem to be wrapt, I once was inclined to think, that they might be a sect of philosophers, who had adopted the maxims of the stoics of old; but when I recollected that a thirst after knowledge, contempt of pain, and whatever is called evil, together with an inflexible rectitude in all their actions, were the characteristics of those sages, I soon perceived my mistake; for I cannot say that I ever found that these philosophers practise any of those virtues. To speak the truth, it is very difficult to know in what class to place them, and under what denomination they ought to pass. Were I to decide, I should at once pronounce them to belong to the vegetable world, and place them among the beings of still-life; for they seem too much under the standard of their species to be allowed to rank with the rest of mankind. To be serious, is it not strange that their heads and hearts should be impenetrable to all the passions that affect

the rest of the world ; nay, even more so than age itself, whose feelings Time with his icy hand has chilled, and almost extinguished ? and yet age with all its infirmities is more quick, more alive and susceptible of the finer passions, than these sons of indifference in their prime and vigour of youth.

“ An old woman, whom I found at my side in the pit the other night, gave me an instance of the truth of this assertion. She did justice both to the poet and the actors, and bestowed her applause plentifully, though never but where it was due. At the same time I saw several of these inanimate bodies sitting as unconcerned as if they had not known the language, or could not hear what was said upon the stage.

“ It is a proverbial expression, though perhaps a little injurious, to call an insipid and senseless person of the male sex an old woman. For my part, I was so charmed with mine, that I will make no disrespectful comparisons ; but yet, Sir, how contemptible must these triflers be, who can be outdone by a toothless old woman, in quickness, spirit, and the exertion of their faculties ? From a regard, then, to that agreeable and sensible matron, I will not liken these insensibles to those grave personages ; but yet I cannot forbear thinking that they approach very near to what is most like old women, old men ; and that they resemble the picture of those crazy beings in the last stage of life, as drawn by that inimitable painter of human nature, Shakspeare ; for these young men, like his old men, are

Sans eyes, sans ears, sans taste, sans every thing.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your faithful,

“ humble servant,

“ PHILONOUS.”

“P. S. The verses underneath upon the same subject as the letter, I venture to tack to it, like a bit of embroidery to a plain cloth, and if you think either or both deserving any notice, you may present them with my service to the gentle reader.

THE INSENSIBLE.

While crowded theatres attentive sit,
And loud applauses echo through the pit,
Unconscious of the cunning of the scene,
Sits smiling Florio with insipid mien.
Fix'd like a standing lake, in dull repose,
No grief, no joy, his gentle bosom knows;
Nature and Garrick no attention gain,
And hapless Wit darts all her stings in vain.
Thus on the Alps eternal frosts appear,
Which mock the changes of the various year;
Intensest suns unheeded roll away,
“And on th' impassive ice the lightnings play.”

No. 157. THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1756.

ONE can scarce pass an hour in any company, without hearing it frequently asserted that the present generation of servants in this country are the proudest, and the laziest, the most profligate, insolent, and extravagant set of mortals anywhere to be found on the face of the globe; to which indisputable truth I always readily give my assent, with but one single exception, which is that of their masters and ladies. Now, though by this exception I have incurred the contemptuous smiles of many a wise face, and the indignant frowns of many a pretty

one, yet I shall here venture to show, that the pride and laziness of our servants, from whence their profligacy, insolence, and extravagance must unavoidably proceed, are entirely owing, not only to our example, but to our cultivation, and are but the natural productions of the same imperfections in ourselves.

In the first place, then, pride has put it into our heads that it is most honourable to be waited on by gentlemen and ladies ; and all, who are really such by birth or education, having also too much of the same pride, however necessitous, to submit to any servitude, however easy, we are obliged to take the lowest of the people, and convert them by our own ingenuity into the genteel personages we think proper should attend us. Hence our very footmen are adorned with gold and silver, with bags, toupees, and ruffles ; the *valet de chambre* cannot be distinguished from his master, but by being better drest ; and Joan, who used to be but as good as my lady in the dark, is now by no means her inferior in the daylight. In great families, I have frequently entreated the *maitre d'hotel* to go before me, and have pulled a chair for the butler, imagining them to be part, and not the least genteel part of the company. Their diversions, too, are no less polite than their appearance ; in the country they are sportsmen ; in town they frequent plays, operas, and taverns ; and at home have their routs and their gaming-tables.

But lest thus exalting our servants to an equality with ourselves should not sufficiently augment their pride, and destroy all subordination, we take another method more effectually to complete the work, which is, debasing ourselves to their meanness by a ridiculous imitation of their dresses and occupations. Hence were derived the flapped hat, and cropped hair, the green frock, the long staff, and buckskin

breeches; hence, among the ladies, the round-eared cap, the stuff nightgown, white apron, and black leather shoe; and hence many persons of the highest rank daily employ themselves in riding matches, driving coaches, or running before them, in order to convince their domestics how greatly they are inferior to them in the execution of these honourable offices. Since then we make use of so much art to corrupt our servants, have we reason to be angry with their concurrence? Since we take so much pains to inform them of their superiority, and our weakness, can we be surprised that they despise us, or be displeased with their insolence and impertinence?

As the pride of servants thus proceeds from the pride, so does their laziness from the laziness of their masters; and indeed, if there is any characteristic peculiar to the young people of fashion of the present age, it is their laziness, or an extreme unwillingness to attend to any thing that can give them the least trouble or disquietude; without any degree of which they would fain enjoy all the luxuries of life, in contradiction to the dispositions of Providence and the nature of things. They would have great estates without any management, great expenses without any accounts, and great families without any discipline or economy; in short, they are fit only to be inhabitants of Lubberland, where, as the child's geography informs us, men lie upon their backs with their mouths open, and it rains fat pigs ready roasted. From this principle, when the pride they have infused into their servants has produced a proportionable degree of laziness, their own laziness is too prevalent to suffer them to struggle with that of their servants; and they rather choose that all business should be neglected, than to en-

force the performance of it; and to give up all authority, rather than take the pains to support it; from whence it happens, that in great and noble families, where the domestics are very numerous, they will not so much as wait upon themselves; and was it not for the friendly assistance of chair-women, porters, chairmen, and shoe-blacks, procured by a generous distribution of coals, candles, and provisions, the common offices of life could never be executed. In such, it is often as difficult to procure conveniences as in a desert island; and one frequently wants necessaries in the midst of profuseness and extravagance. In such families, I have sometimes been shut up in a cold room, and interdicted from the use of fire and water for half a day; and though, during my imprisonment, I have seen numberless servants continually passing by, the utmost I could procure of them was, that they would send somebody to relieve my necessities, which they never performed. In such I have seen, when a favourite dog has discharged a too plentiful dinner in the drawing-room, at the frequent ringing of the bell numerous attendants make their appearance, all entreated to depute some one to remove the nuisance with the utmost expedition, but no one has been found in such a house mean enough to undertake such an employment; and so it has lain smoking under the noses of the illustrious company during the whole evening.

I could produce innumerable instances, minute indeed and unobserved, but well worthy observation, of the encroachments of our servants on our easiness and indolence, in the introduction of most of the fashions that have prevailed for several years past, in our equipages and domestic economy; all which are entirely calculated for their pleasure, ease, or

advantage, in direct contradiction to our own. To mention but a few ; our coaches are made uneasy, but light, that they may whirl us along with the utmost rapidity for their own amusement. Glasses before are laid aside, and we are immured in the dark, that the coachman may no longer be under our inspection, but be drunk or asleep without any observation. Family liveries are discarded, because badges of servility, which might give information to whom their wearers belonged, and to whom complaints might be addressed for their enormities. By their carelessness and idleness, they have obliged us to hire all our horses, and so have got rid of the labour of looking after them. By their impositions on the road, they have forced us into postchaises, by which means they are at liberty to travel by themselves as it best suits their own ease and convenience. By their impertinence, which we have not patience to endure, nor resolution to repress, they have reduced us to dumb-waiters, that is, to wait upon ourselves ; by which means they have shaken off the trouble and condescension of attending us. By their profusion and mismanagement in house-keeping, they have compelled us to allow them board-wages ; by which means they have obtained a constant excuse to loiter at public houses, and money in their pockets to squander there in gaming, drunkenness, and extravagance. The last of these is an evil of so gigantic a size, so conducive to the universal corruption of the lower part of this nation, and so entirely destructive of all family order, decency, and economy, that it well deserves the consideration of a legislature, who are not themselves under the influence of their servants, and can pay them their wages without any inconvenience.

From what has been said it plainly appears, that

every man in this country is ill-served in proportion to the number and dignity of his servants ; the parson, or the tradesman, who keeps but two maids and a boy not exceeding twelve years old, is usually very well waited on ; the private gentleman infinitely worse ; but persons of great fortunes or quality, afraid of the idols of their own setting up, are neglected, abused, and impoverished by their dependents ; the king himself, as is due to his exalted station, is more imposed on and worse attended than any one of his subjects.

No. 158. THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1756.

DURING the course of these my labours, there is nothing that I have applied myself to with more diligence and attention, or that I have hoped for with greater pleasure and delight, than the reformation of the fair sex. Their dressing, gaming, and painting, have been, from time to time, the subjects of my animalversions. Happy, indeed, should I have been if my success had borne any proportion to my zeal ; but as my philosophy has taught me to bear with patience those evils which I cannot redress, I am contented, under certain limitations, to wink at those enormities which I wanted to have removed. In regard to dress, I consent that the fashion shall continue as it now is ; but I enter my protest against absolute nakedness ; for, while I am

conniving at low stays and short petticoats, I will permit no lady whatsoever, as a brother essayist very wittily has it, to make both ends meet. I consent, also, to the present fashion of curling the hair, so that it may stand a month without combing; though I must confess, and I believe most husbands and lovers are of my opinion, that I think a fortnight or three weeks might be a sufficient time; but I bar any application to those foreign artists, who advertise in the public papers that they have the secret of making up a lady's head for a complete quarter of a year. As to gaming, I permit it to go on as it does, provided that the ladies will content themselves with injuring their husbands in no other respect than by ruining their fortunes. Painting, likewise, I submit to; and, indeed, as cards and late hours have so totally destroyed the natural complexion, it is not altogether unreasonable that a little art should be introduced to repair it. But to make this art as little hurtful as possible to the health, the breath, the teeth, and the skin of those who practise it, I have consulted almost every author, both ancient and modern, who has written on the subject. The most satisfactory of these is Jo. Paul Lomatius, a painter of Milan. His works were translated by Richard Haydock, of New College, Oxford, in the year 1598. In the third book of which are the following observations, which the author calls a discourse of the artificial beauty of women.

‘Having treated of so many and divers things I could not but say something of such matters as women use ordinarily in beautifying and embellishing their faces; a thing well worth the knowledge; inasmuch as many women are so possessed with a desire of helping their complexions by some artifi-

cial meanes, that they will by no meanes be dissuaded from the same.

‘Now the thinges which they use are these, viz: ointments of divers sorts, powders, fatts, waters, and the like; whereof Jo. Modonese, doctor of physick, hath written at large, in his book entitled the ornaments of women, wherein he teacheth the whole order of beautifying the face.

‘Now my intent in this treatise is only to discover the natures of certain things which are in daily use for this purpose; because it often falleth out, that instead of beautifying, they do most vilely disfigure themselves. The reason whereof is, because they are ignorant of the natures and qualities of the ingredients. Howbeit, partly by my directions, and partly by Modonese’s book, I hope to content and satisfy them in all such sort, that they shall have just cause to thank us both; and in truth, for their sakes have I specially undertaken this paines by teaching them to understand the natures of the minerals, vegetables, and animals which are most applied to this use. So that if any shall henceforth fall into the inconveniencie after specified, their own peril be it. And first, concerning sublimate.

‘OF SUBLIMATE, AND THE BAD EFFECTS THEREOF.

‘Divers women use sublimate diversly prepared for increase of their beauty. Some bray it with quicksilver in a marble mortar with a wooden pestle, and this they call *argentatem*; others boyl it in water, and therewith wash their face; some grind it with pomatum, and sundry other waies; but this is sure, that which way soever it be used, it is very offensive to man’s flesh, and that not only to the face, but unto all the other parts of the body be-

sides ; for proof whereof, sublimate is called dead fier, because of its malignant and biting nature ; the composition whereof is of salte, quicksilver, and vitriol, distilled together in a glassen vessell.

‘ This the chirurgions call a corrosive, because if it be put upon man’s flesh, it burneth it in a short space, mortifying the place, not without great pain to the patient. Wherefore such women as use it about their face, have always black teeth standing far out of their gums like a Spanish mule, an offensive breath, with a face half scorched, and an unclean complexion ; all which proceed from the nature of sublimate ; so that simple women, thinking to grow more beautiful, become disfigured, hastening old age before the time, and giving occasion to their husbands to seek strangers instead of their wives, with divers other inconveniences.

‘ OF CERUSSE, AND THE EFFECTS THEREOF.

‘ The cerusse, or white lead, which women use to better their complexion, is made of lead and vinegar, which mixture is naturally a great drier ; so that those women which use it about their faces, doe quickly become withered and gray-headed, because this doth so mightily dry up the natural moysture of their flesh ; and if any give not credit to my report, let them but observe such as have used it, and I doubt not but they will easily be satisfied.

‘ OF PLUME ALUME.

‘ This alume is a kind of stone, which seemeth as it were made of tow, and is of so hot and dry a nature, that if you make the wicke of a candle therewith, it is thought it will burn continually without

going out; a very strange matter, and beyond credit. With this some use to rub the skin off their face, to make it seem red by reason of the inflammation it procureth; but questionlesse it hath divers inconveniences, and therefore to be avoided.

‘OF THE JUICE OF LEMONS.

‘Some use the juice of lemons about their face, not knowing the evil qualities thereof; for it is so forcible, that it dissolveth the hardest stones into water, and there is nothing which sooner dissolveth pearl than it. Now if it can dissolve stones in this manner, what think you will it do upon man’s flesh? Wherefore I exhort all women to eschewe this and the like fretting and wearing medicines.

‘OF THE OYL OE TARTARIE.

‘There is no greater fretter and eater than the oyl of tartarie, which, in a very short time, mortifieth a wound as well as any other caustic or corrosive; and being so strong a fretter, it will take any stain or spot out of linen or woollen cloth; wherefore we may easily think, that if it be used about the face, it will work the like effects on the same, by scorching and hardening it so, that in many days it will not return to the former state.

‘OF THE ROCKE ALUME.

‘Rocke alume doth likewise hurt the face, inso-much as it is a very piercing and drying mineral, and is used in strong water for the dissolving of metals, which water is made only of rocke alume and sal nitrum distilled, and is found to be of that

strength, that one drop thereof being put on the skin, burneth, shriveleth, and parcheth it, with divers other inconveniences, as loosing the teeth, &c.

‘OF CAMPHIRE.

‘Camphire is so hot and drie, that coming anything neere the fier, it suddenly taketh fier, and burneth most vehemently. This being applied to the face, scaldeth it exceedingly, causes a great alteration, by parching of the skinne, and procuring a flushing in the face; and in this the women are very much deceived.

‘OF ALL SUCH THINGS AS ARE ENEMIES TO THE HEALTH, AND HURTFUL TO THE COMPLEXION.

‘All those paintings and embellishings which are made with minerals and corrosives, are very dangerous for being laid upon the flesh, especially upon the face of a woman, which is very tender and delicate by nature, besides the harm they doe to the natural beauty, doe much prejudice the health of the body; for it is very certain that all paintings and colourings made of minerals or half minerals, as iron, brass, lead, tinn, sublimate, cerusse, camphire, juice of lemons, plume alume, salt peeter, vitriol, and all manner of saltes, and sortes of alumes, as hath bin declared, are very offensive to the complexion of the face; wherefore if there be no remedy, but women will be meddling with this arte of polishing, let them insteede of those mineral stuffes, use the remedies following:—

‘OF SUCHE HELPES OF BEAUTY AS MAY SAFELY BE USED WITHOUT DANGER.

‘There is nothing in the world which doth more

beautifie and adorne a woman, than cheerefulness and contentment ; for it is not the red and white which giveth the gracious perfection of beauty, but certain sparkling notes and touches of amiable cheerefulnesse accompanying the same ; the trueth whereof may appear in a discontented woman, otherwise exceeding faire, who at that instant will seem yl-favoured and unlovely ; as contrariewise, an hard-favoured and browne woman, being merry, pleasant, and jocund, will seem sufficient beautiful.

‘ Secondly, honesty ; because though a woman be fair and merry, and yet be dishonest, she must needs seem most ougly to an ingenuous and honest mind.

‘ Thirdly, wisdom ; for a foolish, vain, giggling dame cannot be reputed fair, insomuch as she hath an impure and polluted mind.

‘ But hereof sufficient, till a further opportunitie be ministered. Mean while, if any be desirous to be more satisfied in this point, I referre them to an oration or treatise of Nazianzen’s concerning this matter.’

Thus far Lomatius ; and as I have not been able to procure the treatise he refers to, I could wish with all my heart that the ladies would lay aside their paint for a few weeks, and make trial of his recipe. It will indeed cost them some trouble, and may possibly require a little alteration in their manner of living ; but I will venture to assert, that the united toilets of a hundred women of fashion cannot furnish a composition that will be half so efficacious.

No. 159. THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1756.

OLD as I am, my curiosity carried me the other night to see the new dramatic satire, called *The Apprentice*, which, considering the present epidemic madness for theatrical employments raging through the lower ranks of people, will I hope be as serviceable to cure the English mob of that idle disorder, as the immortal work of Cervantes was to exorcise from the breasts of the Spanish nobility the demon of knight errantry. The piece is new and entertaining, and has received no inconsiderable advantages from the masterly performance of a principal comedian, who, with a true genius for the stage, has very naturally represented the contemptible insufficiency of a pert pretension to it. At my return to my lodgings I found the following letter on my table :—

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ Among the many benevolent designs which have adorned the present well-disposed age, I remember to have read one a few years ago, in a periodical pamphlet, entitled: ‘ *A proposal for building an hospital for decayed authors,*’ which gave me, and many other charitable people, much satisfaction. If the aged, the lame, and the blind are proper objects of compassion, how much more so are those, who, if I may use the expression, have mutilated their understandings by an application to an art which

incapacitates its professors for all other pursuits ! How many sublime geniuses have we daily seen, who scorning the mechanic drudgeries to which they have been destined by their muck-worm parents, have so feasted their minds with Pierian delicacies, as to leave their bodies to perish through nakedness and hunger !

“ Having heard that the author of that essay made an impression not only upon those who shed often the tears of pity, but even upon usurers, attorneys, and sober tradesmen, I have ventured, by the conveyance of your paper, to lay my thoughts before the public, in compassion to the distresses of another order of men, who, in a subordinate degree, are connected with the sublime race of authors, and, as retainers to the Muses, claim mine and your assistance. The persons I mean are such as, either from the want of ambition or capacity, are prevented from soaring high enough to oblige mankind with their own conceptions, and yet having a taste or inclination above handling a yard, or engrossing parchment, entertain and instruct the rest of their species by retailing the thoughts of others, and animating their own carcasses with the everliving sentiments of heroes, heroines, wits, and legislators. These gentlemen and ladies, whilst they are resident in London, are called, in plain English, Actors ; but when they condescend to exhibit their illustrious personages in the country, the common people distinguish them by the name of Stage-players, the rural gentry by the uncivil appellation of Strollers, and a more unmannerly act of parliament by the names of Vagrants and Vagabonds. Such, Sir, is the present ill-bred dialect of our common statute law.

“ I must confess it has grieved me not a little,

when I have beheld a theatrical veteran, who has served all the campaigns of Alexander, Julius Cæsar, and Henry the Fifth, cast off by cruel fate, or the caprice of a manager, and condemned, in the tragic words of a celebrated poet, to beg his

—bitter bread through realms his valour saved:

YOUNG.

but judge, Mr. Fitz-Adam, what must have been my anxiety, when I have heard that a truly Christian actor, which is no small miracle in our days, who has inoffensively trod the stage many years without ever molesting our passions, or breaking the commandment by representing ‘the likeness of any thing upon the earth,’ should be discarded merely on the account of this his quiet deportment, and sent to eat the unmuse-like bread of industry, behind the entrenchment of a counter! Shall a man, born with a soul aspiring to imitate the rapine of a Bajazet, or a woman with a heart burning to emulate the whoredoms of a Cleopatra, be sent, the one to weigh out sugar and spices to dirty mechanics, and the other to be cruelly fettered in the bonds of matrimony, among a phlegmatic race of creatures, where chastity is reckoned a virtue? Indeed, Sir, when you come seriously to think of these things, I dare say you will lament with me, that in all this hospital-erecting town there is no charitable asylum yet founded for these unfortunate representatives of the greatest personages that ever trod the stage of earth.

“We are told, by Hamlet, that it is not impossible to trace Alexander’s carcase, after his world-conquering spirit had left it, to the stopping of a bung-hole; but methinks it would not be decent for so civilized a nation as our own, to suffer any living

hero to be so reduced by fortune, as to stop that place which the dead Macedonian monarch was supposed to perform the office of clay to. In plain English, would it not be shocking to see a fine periwig-pated emperor, whom we have beheld ascend the capitol as Julius Cæsar, degraded to fill small-beer barrels at Hockley-in-the-Hole?

To what base uses may we turn?

SHAKSPEARE.

But that such heart-breaking anticipations may not weigh upon the spirits of these theatrical geniuses, while they are bringing the stately personages of antiquity before our eyes; and that our Pyrrhuses, Tamerlanes, and Marc Antonies, even though itinerant, may not sneak into the sheepish look of tailors, by foreboding that the cruel lot of fate may ere long destine those legs, which are now adorned with the regal buskin, to cross one another again upon an obscure shopboard in a garret; I say, that we may drive misery from the minds of these worthies, when she puts on such horrid shapes, I would propose to the nobility and gentry of this metropolis a subscription for raising an hospital for decayed actors and actresses, that our performers may constantly be cherished with the assurance that meagre want shall never grin at their royal heels, and that whenever age, accident, or the caprice of the town deprives those of their heroic callings, who fortunately have escaped violent deaths—for these representatives of heroes are sometimes known to imitate their originals, and as the poet sings,

—ere nature bids them die,
Fate takes them early to the pitying sky—

POPE.

they will be supported whilst alive; and, ‘when the sisters three shall slit the fatal thread,’ they may be

enabled to make an exit as they have lived, in minnetic grandeur, and have the insignia of their honours carried before them 'to the grave's lightless mansion.'

"If I find the generality of your readers are inclined to encourage this useful charity, I will take the liberty to offer to them a plan for the building such an hospital, a scheme for the raising a fund for its support, to point out what qualifications are necessary to entitle the candidate to a place in it, and, last of all, to recapitulate the many advantages that must necessarily be derived to society from so laudable an undertaking.

"But that no well-disposed persons may be influenced by the uncharitable insinuation that I have some selfish views in the erecting this hospital, I think it absolutely necessary to declare, that I am neither an unemployed physician, an unpractised surgeon, nor a drugless apothecary; nor do I any other way expect either emolument or pleasure from the institution, than in that sweetest of sensations which the heart feels in having contributed to the relief of others, which always rises in proportion to the object. What then, and how great must be mine, to have contributed to the comfort of so illustrious a race of worthies!

"I am, with very sincere esteem,

"Sir,

"Your most humble faithful servant,"

A. Z."

No. 160. THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1756.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ I THINK, Sir, more than three years are past since you began to bestow your labours on the reformation of the follies of the age. You have more than once hinted at the great success that has attended your endeavours; but surely, Mr. Fitz-Adam, you deceive yourself. Which of your papers has effectuated any real amendment? Have fewer fools gone to, or returned from France, since you commenced author? or have fewer French follies been purchased or propagated by those who never were in France? Do not women, dressed French, still issue from houses dressed Chinese, to theatres dressed Italian, in spite of your grave admonitions? Do the young men wear less claret, or the beauties less rouge, in obedience to your lectures? Do men of fashion, who used to fling for a thousand pounds a throw, now cast only for five hundred? or if they should, do you impute it to your credit with them, or to their want of credit? I do not mean, Sir, to depreciate the merit of you lucubrations; in point of effect, I believe they have operated as great reformation as the discourses of the divine Socrates, or the sermons of the affecting Tillotson. I really believe you would have corrected that young Athenian marquis, Alcibiades, as soon as his philosophic preceptor. What I would urge is, that all the preachers in the world, whether jocose, satiric,

severe, or damnatory, will never be able to bring about a reformation of manners, by the mere charms of their eloquence or exhortation. You cannot imagine, Mr. Fitz-Adam, how much edge it would give to your wit to be backed by a little temporal authority. We may in vain regret the simplicity of manners of our ancestors, while there are no sumptuary laws to restrain luxury, no ecclesiastical censures to castigate vice. I shall offer to your readers an instance or two, to elucidate the monstrous disproportion between our riches and extravagance, and the frugality of former times; and then produce some of the wholesome censures and penalties, which the elders of the church were empowered to impose on persons of the first rank, who contravened the established rules of sobriety and decorum.

“How would our progenitors have been astonished at reading the very first article in the late will of a grocer! ‘Imprimis, I give to my dear wife one hundred thousand pounds.’ A sum exceeding a benevolence, or two subsidies, some ages ago. Nor was this enormous legacy half the personal estate of the above-mentioned tradesman, on whom I am far from designing to reflect: he raised his fortune honestly and industriously; but I hope some future antiquarian, struck with the prodigality of the times, will compute how much sugar and plums have been wasted weekly in one inconsiderable parish in London, or even in one or two streets in that parish, before a single shopkeeper could have raised four hundred thousand pounds by retailing those and such-like commodities. Now let us turn our eyes back to the year 1385, and we shall find no less a person than the incomparable and virtuous Lady Joan, princess dowager of Wales, by her last will and testa-

ment, bequeathing the following simple movables ; and we may well believe they were the most valuable of her possessions, as she divided them between her son the king, and her other children. To her son, King Richard, she gave her new bed of red velvet, embroidered with ostrich feathers of silver, and heads of leopards of gold, with boughs and leaves proceeding from their mouths. Also to her son Thomas, Earl of Kent, her bed of red camak, paled with red, and rays of gold ; and to John Holland, her other son, one bed of red camak. These particulars are faithfully copied from Dugdale, vol. 2. p. 94,—an instance of simplicity and moderation in so great and illustrious a princess, which I fear I should in vain recommend to my contemporaries, and which is only likely to be imitated, as all her other virtues are, by the true representative of her fortune and excellence.

“ I come now, Sir, to those proper checks upon licentiousness, which, though calculated to serve the views of a popish clergy, were undoubtedly great restraints upon immorality and indecency, and we may lament that such sober institutions were abolished with the real abuses of popery. Our ecclesiastic superiors had power to lay such fines and mulcts upon wantonness, as might raise a revenue to the church and poor, and at the same time leave the lordly transgressors at liberty to enjoy their darling foibles, if they would but pay for them. Adultery, fornication, drunkenness, and the other amusements of people of fashion, it would have been in vain to subject to corporeal punishments. To ridicule those vices, and laugh them out of date by Tatlers, Spectators, and Worlds, was not the talent of monks and confessors, who, at best, only knew how to wrap up very coarse terms in very bald

Latin and jingling verses. The clergy steered a third course, and assumed a province, which I could wish, Mr. Fitz-Adam, was a little connected with your censorial authority. If you had power to oblige your fair readers and offenders to do penance in clean linen, for almost wearing no linen at all, I believe it would be an excellent supplement to your paper of May the 24th, 1753. The wisest exercise that I meet recorded of this power of inflicting penance, is mentioned by the same grave author, from whom I copied the will above mentioned; it happened in the year 1360, in the case of a very exalted personage, and shows how little the highest birth could exempt from the severe inspection of those judges of manners. The Lady Elizabeth, daughter of the Marquis of Juliers, and widow of John Plantagenet, Earl of Kent, uncle of the Princess Joan above mentioned, having, on the death of the earl her husband, retired to the monastery of Waverley, did, I suppose immediately, make a vow of chastity, and was solemnly veiled a nun there by William de Edendon, Bishop of Winchester. Somehow or other it happened, that about eight years afterwards, sister Elizabeth of Waverley became enamoured of a goodly knight, called Sir Eustace Dawbridgecourt, smitten, as tradition says she affirmed, by his extreme resemblance to her late lord; though, as other credible writers affirm, he was considerably younger; and notwithstanding her vows of continence, which could not bind her conscience, and, in spite of her confinement, which was not strong enough to detain a lady of her great quality, she was clandestinely married to her paramour in a certain chapel of the mansion-house of Robert de Brome, a canon of the collegiate church of Wyngbam, without any license from the Archbishop of Canterbury, by one Sir

John Ireland, a priest, before the sunrising, upon Michaelmas day, in the 34th of Edward the Third.

“Notwithstanding the great scandal such an indecorum must have given, it is evident from the subservience of two priests to her desires, that her rank of princess of the blood set her above all apprehension of punishment for the breach of her monastic vows ; yet it is evident, from the sequel of the story, that her dignity could not exempt her from such proper censures and penalties as might deter others from commission of the like offences ; as might daily and frequently expose the lady herself to blushes for her miscarriage ; and as might draw comfort to the poor, from taxing the inordinate gratification of the appetites of their superiors ; a sort of comfort, which, to do them justice, the poor are apt to take as kindly as the relief of their own wants.

“My author says, vol. 2, page 95, that the lady dowager and her young husband being personally convened before the Archbishop of Canterbury for the said transgression, at his manor-house of Haghfield, upon the seventh ides of April, the archbishop, for their penance, enjoined them to find a priest to celebrate divine service daily for them, the said Sir Eustace and Elizabeth, and for him, the archbishop ; besides a large quantity of penitential psalms, paternosters, and aves, which were to be daily repeated by the priests and the transgressors. His grace moreover ordered the Lady Elizabeth, whom, for some reasons best known to himself, I suppose he regarded as the seducer, to go once a year on foot in pilgrimage to the tomb of that glorious martyr, St. Thomas, of Canterbury ; and once every week, during her life, to fast on bread and drink, and a mess of pottage, wearing no smock, especially in the absence of her husband ; a penance that must ap-

pear whimsical to us, and not a little partial to Sir Eustace, whom the archbishop seems in more respects than one to have considered rather as disobedient to the canons, than guilty of much voluptuousness by his wedlock. But the most remarkable articles of the penance were the two following. The archbishop appointed the said Sir Eustace and the Lady Elizabeth, that the next day after any repetition of their transgression had passed between them, they should competently relieve six poor people, and both of them that day to abstain from some dish of flesh or fish, whereof they did most desire to eat.

“Such was the simplicity of our ancestors. Such were the wholesome severities to which the greatest dames and most licentious young lords were subject in those well-meaning times. But though I approve the morality of such corrections, and perhaps think that a degree of such power might be safely lodged in the hands of our great and good prelates; yet I am not so bigotted to antiquity as to approve either the articles of the penance, or to think that they could be reconciled to the difference of modern times and customs. Pater-nosters and aves might be supplied by prayers and litanies of a more Protestant complexion. Instead of a pilgrimage on foot to Canterbury, if an inordinate matron were compelled to walk to Ranelagh, I believe the penance might be severe enough for the delicacy of modern constitutions. For the article of leaving off a shift, considering that the upper half is already laid aside, perhaps to oblige a lady-offender to wear a whole shift, might be thought a sufficient punishment; for wise legislators will allow a latitude of interpretation to their laws, to be varied according to the fluctuating condition of times and seasons. What most offends me, and which is by no means proper for

modern imitation, is the article that prescribes charity to the poor, and restriction from eating of a favourite dish, after the performance of certain mysteries. If the right reverend father was determined to make the Lady Elizabeth ashamed of her incontinence, in truth he lighted upon a very adequate expedient, though not a very wise one; for, as devotion and charity are observed to increase with increase of years, the bishop's injunction tended to nothing but to lessen the benefactions of the offenders as they grew older, by the conditions to which he limited their largess.

“One can scarce reflect without a smile on the troops of beggars waiting every morning at Sir Eustace's gate, till he and his lady arose, to know whether their wants were to be relieved. One must not word, but one cannot help imagining the style of a modern footman, when ordered at breakfast by his master and lady to go and send away the beggars, for they were to have nothing that morning. One might even suppose the good lady pouting a little, as she gave him the message. But were such a penance really enjoined now, what a fund of humour and wit would it open to people of fashion, invited to dine with two illustrious penitents under this circumstance! As their wit is never indelicate; as the subject is inexhaustible; and as the ideas on such an occasion must be a little corporeal, what *bon mots*, wrapped up indeed, but still intelligible enough, would attend the arrival of every new French dish, which Sir Eustace or my lady would be concluded to like, and would decline to taste! — But I fear I have transgressed the bounds of a letter. You, Mr. Fitz-Adam, who sway the censorial rod with the greatest lenity, and who would blush to put your fair penitents to the blush,

might be safely trusted with the powers I recommend. Human weaknesses, and human follies, are very different; continue to attack the latter; continue to pity the former. An ancient lady might resist wearing pink; a matron who cannot resist the powers of Sir Eustace Dawbridgecourt, is not a topic for satire but compassion; as you, who are the best-natured writer of the age, will, I am sure, agree to think with, Sir,

“Your constant reader and humble servant,

“THOMAS HEARNE, JUN.”

No. 161. THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1756.

“TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“SIR,

By a very tender letter, in one of your papers, from an officer's wife, we have seen the distresses of a father and mother, and the misconduct of a daughter, whose meekness and gentleness of temper have drawn upon herself and family the utmost misery and distress. Give me leave to lay before you a character of another kind, the too great gentleness and weakness of a son.

“In the forty-second year of my age, I was left a widower, with an only son of seven years old, who was so exact a likeness of his mother, both in person and disposition, that from that circumstance alone I could never prevail upon myself to marry again. The image of the excellent woman I had

lost was perpetually before my eyes, and recalled to my memory the many endearing scenes of love and affection that had passed between us. I heard her voice, I saw her mien, and I beheld her smiles in my son. I resolved therefore to cultivate this tender plant with more than common care; and I endeavoured to take such proper advantages of his puerile age and hopeful temper, as might engage him to me, not more from moral duty, than from real inclination and attachment. My point was to make him my friend; and I so far succeeded in that point, that, till he was seventeen years old, he constantly chose my company in preference to any other.

“I should have told you that I placed him early at a great school; and, to avoid the mischiefs that sometimes arise from boarding at a distance from parents, I took a house near the school, and kept him under my own eye, inviting constantly such of his school-fellows to amuse him, as were pointed out to me by the master, or were chosen by my own discernment, in consequence of my son’s recommendation. All things went on in the most promising train; but still, I saw in him a certain easiness of temper, and an excess of what is falsely called good-nature, but is real weakness, which I feared must prove of dreadful consequence to him, whenever he should tread the stage of the great world. However, it now grew time to advance him to the university; and he went thither, I can with truth say it, as free from vice, and as full of virtue, as the fondest parent could desire. What added further to my hopes was his strength of body, and the natural abhorrence which he had to wine, even almost to a degree of loathing.

“When he was settled at college, I insisted upon

his writing to me once a week ; and I constantly answered his letters in the style and manner which I thought most conducive to the improvement of his knowledge, and the extension and freedom of his thoughts. During some time our mutual correspondence was kept up with great punctuality and cheerfulness ; but in less than two months it drooped and grew languid on his side ; and the letters I received from him contained seldom more than three lines, telling me, ‘ that he was much engaged in his studies, and that the departing post-boy hindered him from adding more than that he was my dutiful son.’

“ Not to trouble you with too many particulars, in six months after he had been at the university I made him a visit ; but I cannot find words to express the astonishment I felt, in discovering my gentle, easy, sweet-natured son, not only turned into a buck, but a politician. Never was any young man less fitted for either of those characters ; never any young man entered deeper into both. He was a buck without spirit or ill-nature, and a politician without the least knowledge of our laws, history, or constitution. His only pretence to buckism was his affected love of wine ; his only skill in politics was the art of jumbling a parcel of words together, and applying them, as he imagined, very properly to the times. By this means he became distinguished among his associates as the jolliest, honestest toast-master in the university. But, alas ! this was a part assumed by my son, from a desire of pleasing, mixed with a dread of offending the persons into whose clubs and bumper-ceremonies he had, unhappily, enlisted himself. Poor miserable youth ! he was acting in opposition to his own nature, of which had he followed the dictates he

would neither have meddled with party, politics, nor wine ; but would have fulfilled, or at least have aimed at, that beautiful character of Pamphilus in Terence, so well delineated in the Bevil of Sir Richard Steele's *Conscious Lovers*.

“To preserve his health, I withdrew him from the university as expeditiously and with as little noise as I could, and brought him home, perfectly restored, as I vainly imagined, to himself. But I was mistaken. The last person that was with him, always commanded him. The companions of his midnight hours obliterated his duty to his father, and, notwithstanding his good sense, made him, like the beast in the fable, fancy himself a lion, because he had put on the lion's skin. With the same disposition, had he been a woman, he must have been a prostitute ; not so much from evil desires, as from the impossibility of denying a request. He worshipped vice, as the Indians do the devil, not from inclination, but timidity. He bought intemperance at the price of his life ; his health paid the interest-money during many months of a miserable decay ; at length his death, little more than two years ago, discharged the debt entirely, and left me with the sad consolation of having performed my duty to him, from the time I lost his mother till the time he expired in my arms.

“I have borne my loss like a man ; but I have often lamented the untowardness of my fate, which snatched from me an only child, whose disposition was most amiable, but whose virtues had not sufficient strength to support themselves. He was too modest to be resolute ; too sincere to be wary ; too gentle to oppose ; too humble to keep up his dignity. This perhaps was the singular part of his character ; but he had other faults in common with his contem-

poraries ; he mistook prejudices for principles ; he thought the retraction of an error a deviation from honour ; his aversions arose rather from names than persons ; he called obstinacy steadiness ; and he imagined that no friendship ought ever to be broken, which had been begun, like the orgies of Bacchus, amidst the frantic revels of wine.

“ Thus, Sir, I have set before you ; I hope without any acrimony, the source and progress of my irreparable misfortune. It will be your part to warn the rising generation in what manner to avoid the terrible rocks of mistaken honour, and too pliant good-nature.

“ In the last century, the false notions of honour destroyed our youth by fashionable duels ; and they were induced to murder each other by visionary crowns of applause. The false notions of honour, in the present age, destroy our youth by the force of bumpers, and the mad consequences arising from every kind of liquor that can intoxicate and overturn sense, reason, and reflection. Why are not healths to be eaten as well as drunk ? Why may not the spells and magic arising from mouthfuls of beef and mutton, be as efficacious towards the accomplishment of our wishes, as gallons of port, or overflowing bowls of punch ? Certainly they might. I hope therefore that by your public admonition, the young men of our days, who eat much less than they drink, may drink much less than they eat ; and I must further add, that as it may be dangerous to abolish customs so long established, I humbly advise that you permit them to eat as many healths as they please.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your constant reader

“ and most humble servant,

“ L. M.”

No. 162. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1756.

It has been my weekly endeavour, for some years, to entertain and instruct the public to the best of my abilities. That I am thought entertaining is beyond dispute; for as no one peruses a periodical paper for conscience sake, or by way of penance, it is evident, that, since I am read, I please.

How far I may have attained the other purpose of my papers, that of instructing, is another question, and which cannot easily be resolved. The pen of a writer, like the hand of time, works imperceptibly; and perhaps the reformation, which may be occasioned by these my labours, will not be completed in less than a century. Thus much, however, I may venture to affirm, that I have done no harm. All my contemporaries may not, perhaps, be able to say as much for their writings. People of fashion have not more abounded in thoughtfulness and prodigality, since the publication of the *WORLD*. Legal debts are no worse paid than they were formerly; nor have the weekly bills of adultery considerably increased. Though I may not have been able to hew off the marble, and bring out the man, I have not spoilt the block; and some happier artist may yet exercise his chisel upon it.

It has always been my particular endeavour to avoid blame; for, to please everybody, is a vain attempt; and yet, to meet with censure where applause was due, is affecting to a generous spirit; such has been my lot. Many of my readers will hardly

believe me when I tell them, that I have been censured for not writing in a serious manner. The accusation is, indeed, severe; for it implies that I have mistaken the genius of the people. Seriousness is not, I think, the present disposition of Britons, however, they may have been celebrated for that quality in former times. Why then should I be serious, who write for the youthful, the well dressed, and for every body one knows? The very word seriousness is expelled from polite life; it is never mentioned at all, but in some account of the author, or in funeral panegyrics; and even then it is only applied to writers of good books, or to ancient maiden gentlewomen. What then has poor Adam Fitz-Adam done, that he should be obliged to turn parson, and write seriously?

But there are certain seasons and occasions that call upon me for real seriousness; occasions where humour and ridicule would be ill-applied, and justly censurable. Such is the present; when on the morrow of this day a general humiliation is appointed, to deprecate the Divine displeasure, and to implore deliverance from those dreadful devastations which have so lately alarmed or destroyed a neighbouring people, and laid their metropolis in ruins. For an occasion so solemn, I have reserved a letter which I received some time since from a very valuable correspondent, and which I shall here lay before my readers, as the properest preparation that I am able to present them with.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ I shall make no apology for addressing the public, by the channel of your paper, on an occurrence that has so lately and justly alarmed us; I mean

the desolation of Lisbon, and the adjacent country. The terror we express, on the bare hearing of that distant calamity, strongly implies the relation we bear as men to the unhappy sufferers ; and the pity and support we give them, show how readily we suppose the case might have been our own. Nor are we indeed wholly exempted from a share in the event ; we are not destroyed, but we are admonished. In this sense the shock was general ; and though the blow was partial, the warning is universal.

“Among the many hints of improvements suggested by so awful a devastation, the necessity of a general reformation seems a very obvious one. A small acquaintance with mankind will show us how vice and immorality prevail, under the specious names of custom and politeness ; while virtue, if not ridiculed, is too often and generally neglected. Irreligion and profaneness furnish constant matter of reproof for the pulpit ; and the enormities that attend them, employment for the hand of justice. If then the Divine displeasure is to be dreaded for the impieties of a nation, how small is our security !

“We join in our concern for a people or city, ruined by so fatal and sudden a stroke as an earthquake, and image to ourselves the horrors of the scene ; but how faintly ! for who can fully describe a distress which guilt can only aggravate, and the testimony of a good conscience only alleviate ?

“The instability of all earthly good is a truth so well known, both from precept and experience, that it may be thought unnecessary to consider it here, as another lesson contained in so melancholy a providence ; but to me there appears something more striking in the ruins of an earthquake, than the usual vicissitudes of life subject us to. In the ordinary changes of life, the loss of wealth, honour, and friends

is often gradual and expected; and our resignation, in proportion, less painful; we are, if I may be allowed the expression, weaned from enjoyments we know so precarious; but to be robbed at once of all we have, and all we love, and, perhaps, survive the sad spectators of our own ruin, is to be attacked, when we are at least on our guard, and to feel the evils of a whole life in a moment. If we look round us, we shall see what unwearied application and prudent circumspection are necessary to obviate the misfortunes we daily encounter; but what application can befriend, what circumspection warn, when rocks fail us, and seas overwhelm us?

“Another lesson we may learn from this calamity, is humility. What weak pretensions to preëminence are riches, honour, and applause, when a moment can efface them? Death, in his usual progress, shows us their insufficiency; but by slower approaches. The trophy outlives the hero, and the monument the patriot; wealth and titles descend to future generations; and though the prince and the peasant meet the same fate, the eulogy of the one survives, and distinguishes him from the other, but here all characters are blended, distinctions lost, the rich levelled, and the ambitious humbled. Such a general confusion may well alarm us, and make us look with indifference on the objects of our present envy; for what is treasure but a security against want? and what is important that is not permanent?

“But not to dwell any longer on particulars, which every one’s own reflections will naturally enlarge on, we have here a faint picture of that awful day, ‘when the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the heavens pass away with a great noise.’ The reader will, I doubt not, be pleased with a descrip-

tion of this scene, as given us by a celebrated genius of the present age : —

—At the destined hour,
By the loud trumpet summon'd to the charge,
See all the formidable sons of fire,
Eruptions, earthquakes, comets, lightnings, play
Their various engines; all at once disgorge
Their blazing magazines; and take by storm
This poor terrestrial citadel of mau.
Amazing period! when each mountain height
Out-burns Vesuvius! rocks eternal pour
Their melted mass, as rivers once they pour'd;
Stars rush, and final ruin fiercely drives
Her ploughshare o'er creation!—

“The recital of such sudden and universal desolation fills us with terror, and we shudder at the prospect of a catastrophe, in which each of us shall be so immediately concerned. But our interest in it will appear in a stronger light, if we consider this change of all things as the prelude of an unchangeable and eternal state of happiness or misery. Our best efforts here are mixed with many imperfections, and our best enjoyments liable to frequent disappointments; but when life's drama is completed, the applause or censure of an unerring Judge shall determine how far we have acted the different characters allotted us, with propriety; the dissolution of earthly felicity shall be succeeded by the more substantial joys of heaven; and even those joys shall be heightened by their duration.

“C. B.”

No. 163. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1756.

THERE was an ancient sect of philosophers, the disciples of Pythagoras, who held that the souls of men and all other animals existed in a state of perpetual transmigration, and that when, by death, they were dislodged from one corporeal habitation, they were immediately reinstated in another, happier or more miserable, according to their behaviour in the former; so that when any person made his exit from the stage of this world, he was supposed only to retire behind the scenes to be new dressed, and to have had a new part assigned him, more or less agreeable, in proportion to the merit of his performance in the last.

This doctrine of transmigration, I must own, was always a very favourite tenet of mine, and always appeared to me one of the most rational guesses of the human mind into a future state. I shall here, therefore, endeavour to show the great probability of its truth, from the following considerations. First, from its justice; secondly, from its utility; and, lastly, from the difficulties we lie under to account for the sufferings of many innocent creatures without it.

First, then, the justice of this system exceeds that of all others; because, by it, the great law of retaliation may be more strictly adhered to; for, by means of this metamorphosis, men may suffer in one life the very same injuries which they have inflicted in another; and that, too, in the very same

persons, by a change only in situation. Thus, for instance, the cruel tyrant who in one life has sported with the miseries of his slaves, may, in the next, feel all the miseries of slavery under a master as unmerciful as himself. The relentless and unjust judge may be imprisoned, condemned, and hanged in his turn. Divines may be compelled, by fire and fagot, to believe the creeds and articles they have composed for the edification of others; and soldiers may be plundered and ravished in the persons of defenceless peasants and innocent virgins. The lawyer reviving, in the character of a client, may be tormented with delay, expense, uncertainty, and disappointment; and the physician, who, in one life has taken exorbitant fees, may be obliged to take physic in another. All those who, under the honourable denomination of sportsmen, have entertained themselves with the miseries and destruction of innocent animals, may be terrified and murdered in the shape of hares, partridges, and woodcocks; and all those who under the more illustrious title of heroes, have delighted in the devastation of their own species, may be massacred by each other in the forms of invincible game-cocks, and pertinacious bull-dogs. As for statesmen, ministers, and all great men devoted to great business, they, however guilty, cannot be more properly nor more severely punished than by being obliged to reassume their former characters, and to live the very same lives over again.

In the next place, the utility of this system is equal to its justice, and happily coincides with it; for by means of this transmigration, all the necessary inconveniences and all the burdensome offices of life being imposed on those only, who by their misbehaviour in a former state have deserved them, become at once just punishments to them, and at the

same time benefits to society ; and so all those who have injured the public in one life, by their vices, are obliged, in another, to make reparation by their sufferings. Thus the tyrant, who by his power has oppressed his country in the situation of a prince, in that of a slave, may be compelled to do it some service by his labour. The highwayman, who has stopped and plundered travellers, may expedite and assist them in the shape of a post-horse. The metaphorical buck, who has terrified sober citizens by his exploits, converted into a real one, may make them some compensation by his haunches ; and mighty conquerors, who have laid waste the world by their swords, may be obliged, by a small alteration in sex and situation, to contribute to its repopling, by the qualms of breeding, and the pains of childbirth.

For my own part, I verily believe this to be the case. I make no doubt but that Lewis the Fourteenth is now chained to an oar in the galleys of France, and that Hernando Cortez is digging gold in the mines of Peru or Mexico. That Turpin, the highwayman, is several times a day spurred backwards and forwards between London and Epping ; and that Lord *** and Sir Harry ***** are now actually roasting for a city feast. I question not but that Alexander the Great, and Julius Cæsar, have died many times in childbed since their appearance in those illustrious and depopulating characters ; that Charles the Twelfth is at this instant a curate's wife in some remote village, with a numerous and increasing family ; and that Kouli Khan is now whipped from parish to parish, in the person of a big-bellied beggar-woman, with two children in her arms, and three at her back.

Lastly, the probability of this system appears

from the difficulty of accounting for the sufferings of many innocent creatures without it; for if we look round us, we cannot but observe a great and wretched variety of this kind; numberless animals subjected, by their own natures, to many miseries, and by our cruelties to many more; incapable of crimes, and consequently incapable of deserving them; called into being, as far as we can discover, only to be miserable for the service or diversion of others less meritorious than themselves; without any possibility of preventing, deserving, or receiving recompense for their unhappy lot, if their whole existence is comprehended in the narrow and wretched circle of their present life. But the theory here inculcated removes all these difficulties, and reconciles these seemingly unjust dispensations with the strictest justice; it informs us that these their sufferings may be by no means undeserved, but the just punishments of their former misbehaviour in a state, where, by means of their very vices, they may have escaped them. It teaches us that the pursued and persecuted fox was once probably some crafty and rapacious minister, who had purchased by his ill-acquired wealth, that safety, which he cannot now procure by his flight; that the bull, baited with all the cruelties that human ingenuity, or human malevolence can invent, was once some relentless tyrant, who had inflicted all the tortures which he now endures; that the poor bird, blinded, imprisoned, and at last starved to death in a cage, may have been some unforgiving creditor; and the widowed turtle, pining away life for the loss of her mate, some fashionable wife, rejoicing at the death of her husband, which her own ill usage had occasioned.

Never can the delicious repast of roasted lobsters excite my appetite, whilst the ideas of the tortures

in which those innocent creatures have expired, present themselves to my imagination. But when I consider that they must have once probably been Spaniards at Mexico, or Dutchmen at Amboyna, I fall to, both with a good stomach and a good conscience, and please myself with the thoughts that I am thus offering up a sacrifice acceptable to the Manes of many millions of massacred Indians. Never can I repose myself with satisfaction in a postchaise, whilst I look upon the starved, foundered, ulcerated, and excoriated animals, who draw it, as mere horses, condemned to such exquisite and unmerited torments for my convenience ; but when I reflect, that they once must undoubtedly have existed in the characters of turnkeys of Newgate, or fathers of the holy inquisition, I gallop on with as much ease as expedition ; and am perfectly satisfied, that in pursuing my journey, I am but the executioner of the strictest justice.

I very well know that these sentiments will be treated as ludicrous by many of my readers, and looked upon only as the productions of an exuberant imagination ; but I know, likewise, that this is owing to ill-grounded pride, and false notions of the dignity of human nature ; for they are in themselves just and serious, and carry with them the strongest probability of their truth ; so strong is it, that I cannot but hope it will have some good effect on the conduct of those polite people who are too sagacious, learned, and courageous to be kept in awe by the threats of hell and damnation ; and I exhort every fine lady to consider how wretched will be her condition if, after twenty or thirty years spent at cards, in elegant rooms, kept warm by good fires and soft carpets, she should at last be obliged to change places with one of her coach-horses ; and every fine

gentleman to reflect how much more wretched would be his, if, after wasting his estate, his health, and his life in extravagance, indolence, and luxury, he should again revive in the situation of one of his creditors.

No. 164. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1756.

I HAVE set apart this day's paper for the miscellaneous productions of various correspondents.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ I am a citizen of no mean city ; however, in respect to the metropolis, we are deemed the country, and must therefore be prescribed to by London, from whence, as I am told, we receive all our fashions. But surely, Mr. Fitz-Adam, some things that I have seen of late are too absurd to come from thence for our imitation, and can only have been unhappy necessities in some person of vogue, which others have mistaken for choice and fashion.

“ A few days ago, I saw a young lady in our neighbourhood, who, after some considerable absence from home, returned with her hair all off, except as much as might grow in a fortnight after close shaving ; and that, too, standing thin and staring. I asked my wife when I came home, if she knew where Miss Giddycrown had been ; for that I was sadly afraid she had been confined in some madhouse ; for her

head had been shaved and blistered, her hair was but just coming to grow again, and she had, I observed, a particular shy and wild look. As this was the first instance of the kind ever seen here, my wife knew no more than myself what to make of it; she hoped, indeed, that it might possibly not be so bad; that it might be only some external disorder of her head; or had Miss been married, she should have thought that her hair might possibly have come off in a lying-in.

“But alas, Sir! this disorder of the head has proved contagious; and, being given out as the fashion, is prodigiously spread. Now if this be only a hum, as I suppose it is, upon our country apes, it being blown in the World will put an end to it; but if it be a real fashion, pray be so good as to set the World against it. I am sure I should be rejoiced to find any remedy in the World for this falling off of the hair; for, indeed, it is a very unseemly and frightful disorder.

“I am Sir,

“Yours,

“T. L.”

“MR. FITZ-ADAM,

“I am infested by a swarm of country cousins, that are come up to town for the winter, as they call it, a whole family of them. They ferret me out from every place I go to, and it is impossible to stand the ridicule of being seen in their company.

“At their first coming to town I was, in a manner, obliged to gallant them to the play; where, having seated the mother with much ado, I offered my hand to the eldest of my five young cousins; but as she was not dexterous enough to manage a great hoop with one hand only, she refused my offer, and,

at the first step, fell all along. It was with great difficulty I got her up again ; but imagine, Sir, my situation ; I sat like a mope all the night, not daring to look up, for fear of catching the eyes of my acquaintance, who would have laughed me out of countenance.

“ You may imagine, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that I contrived all manner of means to get off from any future engagements with my cousins ; but it has unfortunately so happened, that we have met everywhere. No longer ago than last night, I was going into a rout, and moving towards the lady of the house, to pay my devoirs to her, what should I hear but one of the hoydens, who had not seen me for two or three days, bawling out : ‘ O law ! there’s my cousin ! ’ I advised the mother to take the young lady immediately back into the country ; for that I feared the same violence of joy which discovered itself in her voice and looks at only seeing me as a relation, might carry her greater lengths where the affection was stronger.

“ My acquaintance see how I am mortified at all public places, and it is a standing jest with them, wherever they meet me, to put on the appearance of the profoundest respect, and to ask : ‘ Pray, Sir, how do your cousins do ? ’

“ This leads me, Mr. Fitz-Adam, to propose something for the relief of all those whose country cousins, like mine, expect they should introduce them into the world ; by which means we shall avoid appearing in a very ridiculous light ; for whoever sees the dancing bears, must include the man who shows them in the subject for laughter. I would therefore set up a person, who should be known by the name of Town-Usher. His business should be to attend closely all young ladies who never were in

town before, to teach them to walk into the playhouse without falling over the benches, to show them the tombs, and the lions, and the waxwork, and the giant, and instruct them how to wonder, and shut their mouths at the same time ; for I really meet with so many gapers every day in the streets, that I am continually yawning all the way I walk.

“ I shall only detain you to make one reflection upon these journeys to London. It appears very odd to me that people should choose to leave their home for two or three months, to make themselves unhappy in it the rest of their lives. My good cousin, the mother, thinks she has acted right in showing her children the world ; and fully convinced that they have a thorough knowledge of it, carries them back into the country, where they despise those with whom they formerly lived in intimacy and friendship, because they have not seen London. Miss walks with less pleasure about the fields since her fall in the playhouse, and her sisters are pouting all day long, because the country can afford them no such sights as they saw in town.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your great admirer,

“ A. W.”

“ SIR,

“ I have the honour to be a member of a certain club in this city, where it is a standing order, ‘ That the paper of the World be constantly brought upon the table, with clean glasses, pipes, and tobacco, every Thursday after dinner.’ In consequence of this order, a letter, or rather a petition, from one of your correspondents, was lately read, praying that you would establish it as a law, that healths should be eaten, as well as drank. There appeared

something so new and national in eating the prosperity of our king and country, that the whole club, with a vivacity unknown in that place before, rose up to applaud it; and after many wise and learned debates upon the subject, agreed to the following orders and resolutions:—

‘ORDERED,

‘That in this club, the word Toast in drinking be changed to Mouthful in eating; and that every member, after naming the Mouthful he proposes, do fill his mouth as full as possible, in honour of the person or cause so named.

‘ORDERED,

‘That the chairman be always mouthful-master.

‘ORDERED,

‘That the mouthful-master do demand the mouthfuls regularly from the members over the right thumb, and do cause them to be eaten regularly over his left.

‘RESOLVED,

‘That all the members of the club be obliged upon every club day to eat a large slice of roast beef, as a bumper health to old England.

‘RESOLVED,

‘That the city of London, and the trade thereof, be eaten in turtle.

‘RESOLVED,

‘Always to eat prosperity to Ireland in boiled beef, and to North Britain in Scotch collops.

‘RESOLVED,

‘To eat the administration in British herrings.

‘RESOLVED,

‘To eat success to our fleet in pork and pease.

‘RESOLVED,

‘As the greatest instance that this club can possibly show of their respect and devotion, that the

healths of Lady ***, and the Duchess of ***, be eaten by every member in mouthfuls of minced chicken.

‘RESOLVED,

‘That Mr. Fitz-Adam, or any of his friends, be permitted to eat the members of this club as often as they please, provided that they do not knowingly and wittingly suffer any Frenchman whatsoever, to eat the said members dead or alive.

‘Thus, Sir, you see that you are continually in our thoughts ; and therefore, as a member of a society so warmly attached to you, you will believe me, when I assure you that I am

“Your most faithful

“humble servant,

“E. P.”

No. 165. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1756.

THERE are few things by which a man discovers the weakness of his judgment more than by retailing scraps of commonplace sentiment on that trite and threadbare topic, the degeneracy of the times. We are told very seriously, in almost every company, that the courage we received from our ancestors is evaporated ; that our trade is ruined ; that religion is but a badge to distinguish parties ; and that the muses, kicked out of doors, have carried off with them truth, honour, justice, and all the moral virtues.

But to our comfort, this reflection is not confined to the present age ; it extends itself equally to all. A touch on the times is a piece of satire, that almost runs parallel with the foundation of every state. How many authors do we hear bewailing the degeneracy of their contemporaries, and prognosticating the further corruption of their posterity ! Our very stature is diminished. Even in Homer's time, men were strangely decreased in their size since the Trojan war. Virgil says, that Turnus threw a stone at Æneas, which a dozen Romans could not have lifted ; so that had men decreased since the days of Virgil, in the same proportion, we should long before now have dwindled into a race of atoms.

Livy, who flourished in the golden age of Augustus, tells us, that about three hundred years before, a spirit of equity and moderation animated the whole body of the people, which was not to be found then in one individual. Cicero is forever declaiming against the degeneracy of his own times ; and Juvenal says, that in his, vice was arrived to such a height, that posterity, however willing, would not be able to add any thing to it. Yet consult the authors who have written since, and you will imagine that every former age was an age of virtue.

From all these passages, and many others, it is evident that this complaint is by no means applicable to our times only. And really it is a great breach of good-manners, that modern fine gentlemen cannot put a little rouge on their faces, but the saucy quill of some impertinent author immediately rubs it off ; but neither is it their own invention, nor imported from France ; for Juvenal informs us, that the Roman beaux did the same.

There is but one reason that I know of, why a man may declaim with impunity against the degeneracy of the times; it is, because the reflection is only general, and that he is as much the object of his own satire, as any other man. But let a foreigner, in a company of Englishmen, presume to say that they have degenerated from their forefathers, and not a Briton amongst them but will resent the indignity; or let the reflection become more particular still, and one man lay an act of degeneracy to the charge of another, and the consequence is too obvious.

To lament the loss of religion, and abuse its professors; to censure the constitution of a state, and its constituents, are quite different things. And though a man may prefer the army, with which Henry the Fifth beat the French at Agincourt, to our present soldiery, yet examine them one by one, and there is scarce a sergeant in the service that does not think himself equal to the most valiant commander, from Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, down to brave old Hendrick, Sachem of the Mohawk Indians. So that if considered separately, we are more wise, more valiant, and more religious than our ancestors; if collectively, we are a set of fools, cowards, and infidels.

An ingenious correspondent of mine has carried his compliments on the present times further than I have done. I shall conclude this paper with his letter and verses.

“SIR,

“A conquest over the affections and passions has been the highest boast of the philosophers of every age; and in proportion as they have attained this

victory, future writers have celebrated their characters as the most exalted patterns of wisdom and prudence. But though a veneration for the rust of antiquity, or a fondness for every thing which happened before the memory of our grandfathers, may lead some to celebrate former ages, yet we may boast it among the felicities of the times in which we live, that the most important concerns of life are entered into only under the directions of reason and philosophy. To instance only in one particular; marriage is the effect of mere prudence and forecast, without any mixture of that ridiculous passion, which has now no being but in play-books and romances.

“In former ages, love was supposed to keep the door of Hymen’s temple; but now, as the knowledge of the world may have been somewhat expensive in acquiring, and as our modern philosophers have spent that fortune on their youth, which it had been ridiculous to have reserved for the debility of old age, just before the last spark of vigour is extinguished, some rich heiress is won, who conduces both to the perpetuating a name, and to the providing a fortune for that posterity, which is to continue the family honours. Happy expedient! by which the weight of numerous younger children, the almost constant burden of former times, is most judiciously avoided.

“That I may present your readers with a striking contrast between the follies of our ancestors, and the solid prudence of the present generation, I shall here subjoin a couple of short odes, which are written in the character of an old Englishman, and a modern one, on the day before their marriage.

THE OLD ENGLISHMAN.

I.

I'll tell you why I love my love;
Because her thousand graces prove
Her worth is very high:
She's very fair, and very good,
And not unwilling to be woo'd
By one so plain as I.

II.

Wherever muse has fired the strain,
On British or on Tuscan plain,
Delighted has she roved;
Has glow'd with all the generous rage
That animates the storied page,
By British bosoms loved.

III.

Oft has she sought, with careful feet,
The hallow'd hermit's calm retreat,
And traced, with thought profound,
Each precept of the wise and good;
There every wish has she subdued
To wisdom's narrow bound.

IV.

Has learn'd the flattering paths to shun,
Where folly's fickle vot'ries run,
Deceived by fortune's glare;
Has learn'd that food, and clothes, and fire
Are only nature's plain desire,
Nor forms for more her prayer.

V.

Content with these, my Geraldine
Has promised to be ever mine,
For well she knows my heart;
She knows it honest and sincere,
And much too open to appear
Beneath the veil of art.

VI.

She knows it pants for her alone,
That not the splendour of a throne
From her my steps could lure;

To-morrow gives to these fond arms
My Geraldine in all her charms,
And makes my bliss secure.

THE MODERN ENGLISHMAN.

I.

No, no; by all the powers above,
My heart's as little touch'd by love
As ever in my life.
Full well, dear Hal, to thee is known
Whom fortune to my lot has thrown,
To be my wedded wife.

II.

But why I wed? should any ask,
To answer is an easy task,
Want, want! my honest Harry:
What ean a man, whose fortune's spent,
Who's mortgaged to his utmost rent,
But drown, or shoot, or marry?

III.

Of these the best is sure the bride;
For when once plunged beneath the tide,
Adieu to all our figure.
Full sudden is the pistol's fate;
When once 't is touch'd alas! too late
We wish undrawn the trigger.

IV.

'T is thus resolved then, honest boy,
To-morrow thou may'st wish me joy,
Joy will I buy by wiving:
Soon to her mansion, far from town,
Six rapid bays shall whirl us down,
As if the devil were driving.

V.

There shall the brisk capacious bowl
Drown every care that haunts the soul,
And rouse me to new life:
And, Hal, for all that she can say,
Some blooming village queen of May
Shall—wait upon my wife.

VI.

When all the tedious farce is o'er,
 And spouse has crown'd me with her dower,
 Should sudden ruin meet her,
 E'en though her coachman broke her neck,
 Unmoved I'd stand amidst the wreck,
 Nor swear at heedless Peter.

No. 166. THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1756.

*Falsus honor juvat, et mendax infamia terret,
 Quem, nisi mendosum, et mendacem?*

HOR. EPIST. i. 16. 39

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ AMONG all the prostitutions of language, so justly observed by many celebrated writers, I know of none more to be lamented, than those which rob virtue of her true title, and usurp her name and character.

“ It may be observed that, in all countries and states, the further they have gone from their original purity and simplicity, the greater have their advances been in this respect. The Romans, whose poverty only kept them within the bounds of virtue, when they had quitted their humble station for scenes of ambition and glory, not only changed their manners but lost the sense of those words which were in high estimation with their ancestors. The words frugal, temperate, and modest, were no longer

held in any degree of reverence, when riches, and a licentious enjoyment of them, were the only things in vogue.

“We have gone beyond them in this respect, and quite reversed the meaning of words. Knave and villain, formerly the denominations of laudable industry, are now the marks of the greatest reproach. Our manners have adulterated our words; and, for fear they should reproach us with our conduct, we disfranchise and condemn them to infamy, that their testimony may be invalid, and their evidence of no credit.

“There are many instances, in modern times, where a false and blind zeal has heightened the signification of words of very little meaning, to an unaccountable degree of veneration; as, on the contrary, a loose and libertine way of thinking has debased and sullied those of the highest dignity.

“I am not a little pleased with the saying of King Theodorick, who, being advised by his courtiers to debase the coin, declared: ‘That nothing which bore his image, should ever lie.’ Are we not all accessory to the propagation of falsehood, when we suffer any thing that carries the image and representation of our minds to be guilty of an untruth, and when we enter into a combination to support words in a signification foreign to their meaning, and quite different from the ideas those sounds ought to form in our minds?

“Custom is the tyrant of language; it can alter, adjust, and new model, but it cannot annihilate. It can settle new phrases, introduce a whole colony of fashionable nonsense from foreign parts, and render old words obsolete; but it cannot erase idea from language. It can do more than an absolute prince; because it can create new words; a

privilege which was not allowed to the Roman Emperor Tiberius, who having coined a word in the senate, his flatterers desired it might be adopted into their language, as a compliment to the emperor; but an old senator, not quite degenerated from the honest sincerity of his ancestors, made this memorable reply: 'You may give, Sir, the freedom of the city to men, but not to words.'

"There is no word of greater import and dignity than honour. It is virtue adorned with every decoration that can make it amiable and useful in society. It is the true foundation of mutual faith and credit, and the real intercourse, by which the business of life is transacted with safety and pleasure. It is of universal extent, and can be confined to no particular station of life, because it is every man's security, and every man's interest. But, to its great misfortune, its own virtues have undone it. Its excellent character has, of late years, recommended it so much to the patronage of the great, that they have entirely appropriated it to their own use, and communicated to it a part of their own privileges, that of being accessible only to a few. It now no longer retains its former good qualities; its real dignity is lost, and it is become rather the ornament, than the foundation of a character; it is a kind of polish, that implies a finished character, and too often conceals a very imperfect one.

"Thus has honour got an imaginary title, instead of a real one. It has lost by its acquisitions; and, by being the particular idol of a few, is no longer of use to the many. Its new-acquired trophies are the spoils of its former greatness; and the remembrance of what it was, serves only to heighten the melancholy idea of what it now is. It formerly constantly attended merit as a friend and guardian;

it now accompanies greatness, as a flatterer and parasite.

“It is a compliment to the taste of the present age, to allege that honour is its darling attribute. It is in itself a composition of every thing that is valuable and worthy of commendation; and even in its degenerate state, it is, in a degree, the picture of virtue; it is finely drawn, but the lines are not just, and the colours too glaring. The endeavours of the artist to set it off to advantage, have made it more like a piece of gaudy pageantry, than a true copy of nature.

“To justify the truth of what I assert, I appeal to you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, and beg leave to ask you, what are your ideas of a man, when you hear him particularly recommended as a man of honour? Are your notions at all enlarged, in respect to his moral character; would you give him the preference in your vote, as a representative in parliament? Or should you conceive him to have a more than ordinary zeal for the true religion of his country? Would you trust him the sooner were you a tradesman? Or could you, with more safety, admit him into your family to an intimacy with your wife and daughters? You would undoubtedly rather game with him, because he will not cheat; and you would be sure to receive your money, if you gained any advantage, however his more just creditors might suffer. You would certainly show him more respect, because you dare not affront him; honour, being a thing of so very delicate a nature, that the least indignity endangers its destruction; having lost its true essence, it can only be supported by the courage and zeal of those who will not suffer its title to be disputed.

“What is become of poor honesty? Is she con-

fined to the habitations of Mark and Mincing-lane? Dare she not appear in the polite world? I make no doubt she is as frequent in her visits there, as in any other place; but, for want of a proper dress, she is obliged to be *incog*. She is not a little afraid of the pert raillery of honour, whom she would be sure to meet in her travels to those parts of the town; and, as the latter is a burlesque on her character, she chooses always to avoid her.

“Her name seems to be quite banished to the unbred world, and is so much out of vogue at present, that an honest man as certainly means a tradesman, as a man of honour does a gentleman.

“The word is fairly worn out; it has been so long in mercantile hands, that it is no longer fit for gentlemen. They have laid it aside by universal consent, and bestowed it, with their old clothes, on their servants and dependents.

“The ladies, who form the most considerable part of the fashionable world, have a peculiar sort of honour of their own. They intrench not upon that already appropriated to the other sex, but take it where the men leave it. Conscious of their own frailties and infirmities, they are not ashamed to invoke its aid and assistance, to guard them in a part, where they imagine they are most liable to a surprise. No other branch of their conduct comes within the jurisdiction of honour; for honour, at present, is no more than what the world expects from you; they are at free liberty in every other article; and, like our original parents, have but one thing prohibited.

“The different value and credit of particular virtues, at several periods of time, would form a very entertaining and useful history; and, by looking back into former times, and observing the different faces and changes that virtue has appeared in, we might

reduce it to a degree of calculation, and form a tolerable conjecture when any particular species of it would again come into fashion. The present rage for liberty will not easily admit of many articles of belief; they are a degree of servitude of the mind, which we disdain; but as it is very proper to observe some appearance of religion, we voluntarily give up the freedom of the body, to preserve that of the mind; and admit of some regulations and restrictions, which custom has established as indispensably necessary to maintain the connections of social life.

“But the body is full as rebellious as the mind, and has as strong an aversion to restraint; for which reason it has been found expedient to grant some degree of indulgence, to moderate between pleasure and strict virtue, and to make a compromise between the severer duties and most prevailing passions.

“To form this alliance, and strengthen it by the firmest tie, the word honour was introduced; a word very much the favourite of virtue, and so enchanting in its sound, that vice could make no objection. She consented; but on these conditions; that she should have a due proportion of advantage; and if it was allowed to heighten many virtues, it should, likewise, be permitted to cover almost an equal degree of vice. Thus it is made to serve both as a cordial and palliative; it exalts the character of virtue, and takes off from the deformity of vice. But the mixture is so unnatural, that the poison gets the better of the medicine; and if some strong antidote is not speedily applied, all the humours will be vitiated, and the whole mass corrupted.

“No person who is any ways conversant in antiquity, can be ignorant of the allegorical situation of

the temples of Virtue and Honour, at Rome. They were so placed, that there was no entrance into the latter, but through the former; which has given rise to a very beautiful thought in Cicero's first oration against Verres. Both these temples were built by Marcellus, whose original design was to have placed the two goddesses in one temple; but the priests, who are always for extending the plan of ceremonial religion, would not permit it; which obliged him to alter his first intention. But he pursued the meaning of it, by building two temples contiguous to each other, and, in such a situation, that the only avenue to the temple of Honour should be through the temple of Virtue; leaving, by this emblem, a very elegant and useful lesson to posterity, that virtue is the only direct road to honour.

“It is impossible to have too great a regard and esteem for a man of strict honour; but then let him prove his right to this title, by the whole tenor of his actions. Let him not hold some doctrines in high estimation, and reject others of equal importance; let him neither attempt to derive his character, or form his conduct from fashion, or the opinion of others; let a true moral rectitude be the uniform rule of his actions; and a just praise and approbation will be their due reward.”

No. 167. THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1756.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ THE want of happiness has been the perpetual complaint of all ranks and conditions of men, from the beginning of the world to the present times; and at the rate they still go in, it is absolutely impossible that the complaint should cease. Happiness is a fruit always within their reach, but they will not give themselves the trouble to gather it. It is hourly at their doors as a friend, but they will not let it in. It solicits them in every shape, yet they reject its offers. Ignorance and indolence are its constant enemies.

“ Most people have parts and application sufficient to learn the easy rules of whist, cribbage, and chess; and as soon as they are informed, what they little suspect, and will be delighted to hear, that happiness is a game, and a much greater and deeper one than even Faro or Hazard, I make no doubt that men, women, and children will immediately set themselves to learn the rules and finesses of this important play.

“ When they are satisfied it is a game that will be universally used in all companies in town and country, what mortal will be so stupid as not to learn it in some degree of perfection? For who, without the greatest gratitude, can reflect upon the benevolence of nature, that has introduced felicity into the

world, in the welcome and ever-fashionable guise of deep play, and high gaming?

“This divine attainment could not have been annexed to books and learning; headaches, perpetual reasonings, and fierce disputations, would have embarrassed every step; neither could it have been coupled to riches, which are ever attended with care and anxiety. If poverty and contentment had been the vehicles appropriated to convey it, a sickly calm would have stagnated all activity. Had it been given to political pursuits, how could it have been reconciled to the desultory sentiments of majorities and minorities? Therefore, bountiful nature has annexed it to cards, and seasoned it to the palates of mankind, by the spirit of gaming, which she has almost equally infused into all her rational children.

“Now, as I have always professed myself a great friend and admirer of play, I shall endeavour to lay down a few of the most certain rules by which all persons may be instructed in the art of playing at this royal game of happiness. And I am the more willing to promote the knowledge of this game, as it depends rather upon skill and address, than chance and fortune. It is not played with ever-dangerous dice, like backgammon or triektrack; nor like brag, by audacity of countenance, and polite cozenage; and though, like piequet, there is much putting out and taking in, yet, every card is playable.

“I am elated with pleasure, when I consider that I am going to teach miserable mortals this great game; which, without vanity I may say, is making them a present of more than a sixth sense, and enabling them to exercise their five primary ones in the most delightful manner. I need not here expa-

tiate upon the pleasures of play, the first pastime of infancy, and the ultimate amusement of decrepid age; the faculty which most distinguishes the rational from the brute creation; that levels the laquey with the prince, and the humble cinder-wench with the stately duchess; the cement of all true society, which, by discarding volumes of words, confines all wit, sense, and language within the limits of half a score short and significant sentences. How admirable is the sagacity of the adepts! or, in other words, the people of fashion! who are perpetually taking into their hands, and dealing about most liberally, all that is desirable in the world! For though the uneducated class of mortals may think a club is but a club, and a spade a spade, these exalted and illumined characters thoroughly comprehend, that clubs denote power, diamonds riches, spades industry, and hearts popularity and affections of every sort. From this consideration, I never enter a great apartment without being struck with solemnity and awe. I look upon the different contenders at each table, as so many mighty giants, tossing about, with stupendous strength, these glorious symbols of every thing valuable in the creation.

“What giggling miss shall hereafter presume to disturb these rites with more than female levity? What puny senator shall dare here to recollect the little politics of either house, the partial interests of insignificant islands and nations, whose comparative greatness is lost in such a scene; where every motion decides the fates of kings and queens, and every ordinary trick includes as much wisdom and address as would set up a moderate politician, statesman, or minister? I consider these assemblies as the great academies of education, and observe, with

pleasure, that all parents, guardians, and husbands, are bringing their families to town, for at least six months in the year, to take the advantage of these noble schools and well instituted seminaries.

“What ideas must we form of the hospitable inhabitants of a great capital, where the houses and heads of the most respectable families are, night after night, devoted to public benefit and instruction! How much superior are these to the porticos, gardens, and philosophic schools, that rendered the names of Athens and Rome so greatly celebrated! Here our daughters are capacitated to marry the first prince that may happen to ask them, instead of falling the unhappy victims of the narrow domestic views of some neighbouring country gentlemen. And here the married ladies are taught to pass the winter evenings without a yawn, even in the absence of their husbands. Here they collect that treasure of masculine knowledge, those elegant ideas and reflections, that wonderfully alleviate the solitude of the old family mansion, where, amidst the cawing of rooks, the murmuring of streams, and fragrant walks of flowering shrubs, they wait the return of winter with a philosophic composure.

“But I am wandering from my purpose, and expatiating upon general play, when I intended only to teach my new and great game of happiness, which will render the whole universe like one grand assembly or rout.

“Know then, ye hence happy mortals! that the game called happiness, is played with packs of cards, each pack consisting of three hundred and sixty-five different cards; the backs of which, instead of being white, are of a dusky, sooty colour.

“Every seventh card is equivalent to a court card,

of which there are fifty-two in each pack; and upon playing properly these court cards, the fortunate event of the game is thought greatly to depend.

“It is played from one to any number of players. The game of one is the least entertaining; the game of two is much applauded by the lookers on; but as a greater number must naturally give more variety to the game, a party of ten or a dozen is the most desirable set, though the players may be subject to many revokes. Great lovers of the game are, indeed, fond of sitting down to a crowded table; but it is generally observed that an inattentive and slovenly manner of playing is too often the consequence.

“One pack of cards will last a considerable time, as may be conjectured from their sooty backs; inasmuch as the greatest players are seldom known to pay for more than three score and ten packs during the whole course of their lives.

“They that have the most tricks win the largest division of the stake; but every player gets something, besides the great pleasure of playing, which is thought to be superlative.

“This great game partakes of the excellences of all other games. You are often piqued and repiqued, as at picquet. You are sometimes beasted, as at quadrille; often checked, as at chess; put back, as at the game of goose; and subject to nicks, after the manner of hazard. It differs in one particular from all other games, viz.: that the sharper is always sure to be overmatched by the fair player.

“It would fill a large volume, Mr. Fitz-Adam, to recount all the varieties of this truly royal game; and already I am afraid of having transgressed the bounds of your paper; I shall therefore defer the

rules I promised at the beginning of this letter to another opportunity, at which time I shall take care to make the meanest of your readers an adept at happiness.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most humble servant,

“ I. T.”

No. 168. THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1756.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ EVERY disquisition that tends to remove the prejudices and enlighten the understandings of mankind, though it may chance to come from an obscure hand, will not be without its admirers and advocates in this learned and truly philosophical age. It is needless, then, to make any apology for desiring you to print this.

“ I set out in life with a good share of medical skill, botany, chemistry, anatomy, and natural philosophy ; in the last of which, especially, I excelled ; seldom failing to investigate the efficient cause of any phenomenon ; and, being sensible of my own superior abilities, I never was so mean-spirited as to give up a disputed point. But from two or three failures in practice, when the medicines had not the effect I intended, and indeed once when they had, in relieving a nymph at six months end from a disorder which would have lasted nine, my business and my fees began to fall short.

“I must confess myself shocked to find merit so disregarded, and determined to search out what faculty there might be in the mind of man, that could induce him to treat with contempt and ingratitude any person who professed a design of serving him. This led me into moral inquiries, in which I soon made sufficient progress; and being persuaded that it was incumbent upon every rational member of society to communicate happiness, as far as his influence may extend, I kept not the result of my inquiries secret, but formed a club of the thinking part of my acquaintance, to whom, with the greatest freedom, I imparted my speculations; and, in spite of prejudice, inculcated many important truths. These I once thought of making more public from the press; but there is no necessity for it, seeing the noble and better sort of philosophers are confessedly of my opinion, and discard with one voice, all that metaphysical jargon which would persuade us to believe the immateriality of the soul and a future state. Our sentiments are calculated universally to promote human felicity, as they free the mind from any terrors and disagreeable apprehensions. It certainly then becomes the duty of every one who would be deemed benevolent, to propagate, as far as possible, principles of such manifest utility. But we must expect opposition to this salutary design from those who make a gain of the prejudices of the world. They will never be so disinterested as easily to forego the great emoluments arising thence. And perhaps some thinking men, since moral virtues are indispensably necessary to the well-being of the community, may judge it not quite so proper to loose the vulgar at once from all ties, except such as arise from the inherent rectitude or depravity of actions.

“I have a scheme to obviate this, to which no rational objection can be made. I acknowledge myself indebted to an ingenious Spanish author for the first hint; but as he did not pursue his reasoning so far, either for want of abilities, or through fear of the inquisition, I may justly assume to myself the merit of the invention. This author tells us: ‘Physicians, seeing the great power the temperament of the brain hath in making a man wise and prudent, have invented a certain medicine composed in such a manner, and replete with such qualities, that, being taken in proper doses, it renders a man capable of reasoning better than he could before. They call it the confection of wisdom.’ Now if there is a medical composition known, as from this authority we have sufficient reason to believe, that will improve the rational faculties, and illumine the understanding, we may, with equal truth, assert, there are to be found medicines which will curb the passions, those great obstacles to moral virtue, and make men live according to the fitness of things.

“The thinking part of man being allowed to be a modification of matter, it must be supposed to be a part of the body; at least it is so strictly united and adherent to it, that in all things it suffers with, and cannot, by any arguments of reason, be proved capable of existing without it. Hence it will indisputably follow that all the powers of the mind, even the moral faculties, are inseparably connected with the temperament and habit of that body of which she is part. Insomuch that prudence, the foundation of all morality, as well as justice, fortitude, and temperance, the other cardinal virtues, and their opposites, entirely depend upon the constitution. It will therefore become the province of the physician to extirpate the vicious habits of mankind, and intro-

duce the contrary ; to suppress luxury, and create chastity ; to make the foolish prudent, the proud humble, the avaricious liberal, and the coward valiant. And all this is easy to be done by the assistance of alterative medicines, and by a properly adapted regimen, that shall be perfective of each virtue, and repugnant to each vice.

“ In confirmation of my sentiments, I could quote the fathers of physic, Hippocrates and Galen, as well as Plato and Aristotle, the chief of philosophers. But an example will be of more real authority than a multiplicity of quotations. Man will be impelled to act by those appetites, good or bad, which arise from the habit of his constitution ; the physician, then, who can alter his constitution, may make the vicious become virtuous. And moral philosophers greatly err, when they do not avail themselves of the science of medicine, which, only by changing the temperament of the body, will force the mind to relish virtue, and distaste vice. If a moralist undertakes to reform a luxurious person who gives himself up to high living and lascivious indulgences, by treating him according to the rules of his art, what means would he use to instil the principles of temperance and chastity, that they should take such deep root in the mind, as constantly and uniformly to influence his conduct ? He will set out by showing him the deformity of intemperance and debauchery, and enumerating all that train of evils which proceed from such courses ; and, if the patient has not entirely got over the prejudices of a superstitious education, he will endeavour to affright him by a terrible detail of those inexpressible miseries his soul is in danger of suffering hereafter, if death should surprise him without giving him time to repent and forsake his debaucheries. After this, he

will advise him to fast and pray, sleep little, and avoid the company of women; and perhaps to wear haircloth, to macerate his body by rigorous austerities, and keep it under by bloody discipline. These methods, if he continues long to practise them, will render him pallid and feeble, and so far different from what he was, that instead of running after women, and placing his *summum bonum* in good eating and drinking, he will scarce bear to hear a female mentioned, and nauseate the very thoughts of a sumptuous entertainment. The moralist, seeing the man so changed, will be apt to impute the whole to his art, and suppose the habits of temperance and chastity come from I know not whence, and are the effect of his ratiocination. The physician knows the contrary, and is fully sensible they proceed from the languid and debilitated state of the body; for if this be restored to its pristine vigour, the patient will soon return to his old practices of excess and riot. Daily experience must convince us of this. What we have proved of luxury and chastity, will, in the same manner, hold good with regard to all other vices and virtues; because each has its proper temperament of body peculiarly adapted to it. Bleeding then and blistering, cupping and purging, may be usefully administered in mental as well as corporal disorders. A brisk salivation may cure the mind and body both of a venereal taint; and a strong emetic may have a more salutiferous effect than barely cleansing the stomach of an epicure.

“I could add many more instances, but have already said enough to evince the rationality and practicability of my scheme; and being determined not to lose the honour of my inventions, I do not care to discover too much, lest some paltry plagiary

should, with some little variation, obtrude them upon the world as his own. I have, with great labour and thought, reduced the whole to a complete system, and am compiling a didactic treatise of all the vices incident to human nature, and their different degrees, with the symptoms prognostic and diagnostic, the curatory indications, and a proper dietetic regimen to be observed in all cases. The whole will be comprised in ten volumes folio; and when the work is quite ready for the press, I may, perhaps, venture to publish proposals more at large, with a specimen annexed. But, as your paper is generally well received by good company, I thought this would be no improper method of communicating the first hint of my design, that I may judge from what the intelligent say of this, how they will relish the large work of

“ Sir,

“ Your humble servant,

“ ACADEMICUS.”

No. 169. THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1756.

“ THE following letters have lain by me some time. The writers of them will, I hope, excuse me for the delay, and for the few alterations which I judged it necessary to make in them.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ In a late paper, you have declared absolutely

against total nakedness in our sex, and, by others, you have given us to understand that we are very impolitic in our late near approaches to it ; for that while we are leaving little or nothing for imagination to exercise itself upon, or for curiosity to desire, we are certainly losing our hold upon the men. But I cannot say, that since I have undressed myself to the utmost extent of the fashion, I have fewer admirers than when I appeared like a modest woman ; though, to confess the truth, I have had but one since, that has not plainly discovered a thorough aversion to marriage ; and him I imprudently lost, by granting to his importunity the full display of my whole person ; indeed, the argument he used was so extremely reasonable, that I knew not how to object to it ; and whilst he pleaded with the utmost tenderness, that what he requested as a tribute to love, was but a very little more than what I daily lavished indiscriminately on every eye, I had not the confidence to deny him.

“ Now, Mr. Fitz-Adam, as I think it not improbable, by the advances the ladies have made this winter towards complete nakedness, that as the summer comes on they will incline to throw off all covering whatsoever, I have thought proper to set before them the untoward effect which I have experienced from leaving nothing to discover. I can assure them as an important truth, that if they have a desire to retain even any admirers, they must stop where they are, and uncover no further ; or if they aim at getting husbands, they will do wisely to conceal, and reserve among the acquisitions to be obtained only by marriage, a great deal which they now show, to no other purpose than the defeating their own schemes.

“ Give me leave, Sir, to conclude this letter with

a short transcript from an author, who I believe is not unknown to you, and who has taken some pains to instruct the ladies in this particular point. *

The maid, who modestly conceals
Her beauties, whilst she hides, reveals.
Give but a glimpse, and Fancy draws
Whate'er the Grecian Venus was.
From Eve's first fig-leaf to brocade,
All dress was meant for Fancy's aid,
Which evermore delighted dwells
On what the bashful nymph conceals.
When Celia struts in man's attire,
She shows too much to raise desire;
But from the hoop's bewitching round
Her very shoe has power to wound.

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Your most humble servant,

“ S. B.”

“ MR. FITZ-ADAM,

“ In this free and communicative age, in which business of almost all kinds is transacted by advertisements, it is not uncommon to see wives and milch-asses, stolen horses, and strayed hearts, promiscuously advertised in one and the same paper. It is a curious, and frequently an entertaining medley; but amidst all the remarkable advertisements I have lately seen, I think the following by far the most curious; and, for that reason, I desire it may be made still more public than it is already, by appearing in the World.

‘ WANTED.

‘ A curate at Beccles in Suffolk. Inquire further of Mr. Strutt, Cambridge and Yarmouth carrier, who inns at the Crown, the corner of Jesus-lane, Cambridge.

‘N. B. To be spoke with from Friday noon to Saturday morning nine o’clock.’

“I have transcribed this from a newspaper, Mr. Fitz-Adam, *verbatim et literatim*, and must confess I look upon it as a curiosity. It would certainly be entertaining to hear the conversation between Mr. Strutt, Cambridge and Yarmouth carrier, and the curate who offers himself. Questionless Mr. Strutt has his orders to inquire into the young candidate’s qualifications, and to make his report to the advertising rector, before he agrees upon terms with him. But what principally deserves our observation is, the propriety of referring us to a person who traffics constantly to that great mart of young divines, Cambridge. The advertiser might there expect numbers to flock to the person he employed, who, by the way, might have been somebody more like a gentleman, no disparagement to Mr. Strutt, I know him not, than a Yarmouth carrier. It is pleasant, too, to observe the N. B. at the end of the advertisement; it carries with it an air of significance enough to intimidate a young divine, who might possibly have been so bold as to have put himself on an equal footing with this negotiator, if he had not known that he was only to be spoke with at stated hours.

“There are some of us laymen, you, I dare say, Mr. Fitz-Adam, among the rest, who are old-fashioned enough to have some respect for the clergy; it does not therefore give us any pleasure to see them thus advertised like barbers’ journey-men.

“But why did not the advertiser mention expressly the qualifications he expected in his curate? That would have saved much trouble and altercation between the prolocutor and the young divine. I will have done, however, with this particular advertise-

ment, and leave the whole to your animadversion ; only desiring that you would order under your own hand, that from henceforth all advertisements for curates should be worded in the following manner.

‘ WANTED.

‘ A curate at ***. He must be one that can play at backgammon, and will be willing to receive five-and-twenty pounds a year for doing the whole duty of a parish, while his rector receives two hundred for doing none of it. He must keep what company, and preach what doctrine his rector pleases, &c., &c., &c. Whoever will comply with these reasonable terms, may apply to ***, innkeeper at ***, for full information.’

“ I am, Sir, yours,
“ L. L.”

“ MR. FITZ-ADAM,

“ It is with pleasure that I see you less addicted to dreaming than most of your predecessors ; to say the truth, I have seldom found you inclined to nod ; though, without any disparagement to you, your betters and elders have sometimes slept in a much shorter work. *Aliquando bonus dormitat Homerus*, was what I told my schoolmaster, when he whipt me for sleeping over my book.

“ Life has been often called a dream ; nay, we are told of some old Grecians, who used to be always in doubt whether they were asleep or awake. Indeed, the number of waking dreamers that are daily exhibiting themselves in this metropolis is inconceivable ; even the pulpit is not free from them. The first time I ever heard the character of a dreamer given to a preacher, was on the following occasion : A reader to a country cure took a printed

sermon of an eminent divine into the pulpit with him to preach ; unfortunately, it happened to be a farewell sermon. The young gentleman began with acquainting the people that he was then going to leave them. As they had never received the least hint of this before, they were a good deal surprised ; but when he concluded with telling them that he had been exhorting them with all diligence for sixteen years, when he had hardly been with them as many weeks, and talked of his high dignity in the church, some of the congregation said he was mad, most of them that he was dreaming.

“ I could wish, indeed, that these dreamers in the pulpit would contrive to dream their own dreams, or that they would take care not to convert the serious thoughts of others into something more absurd than dreams, for want of reading beforehand what they would be supposed to deliver as their own compositions. It is by way of hint to such dreamers that I have told this story, which, being the principal purpose of my letter, I shall add no more than that

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most humble servant,

“ A. S.”

No. 170. THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1756.

Post mortem nobilitari volunt.

CIC.

TAKING my walk of observation the other day, as is often my custom, I was led by the course of my tour into one of our famous hospitals. The magnificence of the building, the order and regularity of the household, the multitude that were received, and their several accommodations, threw me naturally into a very pleasing contemplation on the extensive charity of my good countrymen. From one of these endowed habitations I was carried on to another, till I believe I made myself acquainted with all the public edifices of this nature that this large and opulent city abounds with. Some of them I found of royal and very ample foundation, others raised and maintained by a single and munificent family, others by a joint act of the whole people; all, however, noble in their purposes, and admirably adapted for the particular uses to which they were distinctly appropriated. I admired throughout the number of inhabitants thus perfectly provided for in every stage of their conditions, together with the continual increase of the fund which must support such an addition of charges, as I observed by the augmentation of apartments, and decorations of more cost, perhaps, than utility. Charity, thought I, works in secret; and these matters are, of course, hidden from me. But happening to turn myself on

one side of the chamber, I discovered two or three long tablets, with several names inscribed in large golden characters, which, in my simplicity, I took for the votive histories of the poor, who had felt the efficacy of relief under these merciful mansions ; but, upon nearer inspection, I found them to be no other than an enumeration of the very worthy and pious persons of both sexes, who annually or occasionally afforded what it pleased them, in their liberality, to bestow.

I was resolved, since chance had thrown so much information in my way, to peruse, against my custom, the accounts of other families ; which practice, however, I thought the less impertinent, as I could perceive no other end in their being placed there. Here I discovered a contribution that did honour, indeed, to the names that were annexed to it, and would have done so to the greatest. The immense sums, notwithstanding, that were adjoined to the names of several private persons, larger than I could have suspected to be within their power, raised my curiosity enough to make a further inquiry into the history of some of these very liberal donors. Two of them I accordingly pitched upon to be the subject of my investigation, as they stood upon the list ; the one a maiden lady who bequeathed, at her death, five thousand pounds to the poor of this house ; the other, an old gentleman, who had settled, after his decease, his whole estate upon them forever.

The good lady's story cannot be better known than by a letter which I received, in the course of my inquiry, from her nephew, who with three sisters had retired, in sorrow, at their aunt's death to a country village, in the northern parts of this kingdom. It is written with such plainness and simplicity, and is so much suited to the circumstances of the writer,

that I own myself much captivated with my rural correspondent. The letter is this :—

“SIR,

“It is neither our inclination, nor I am sure our interest, to conceal any thing from you, who have taken so much generous pains in our service. Your offers are received by us all most thankfully; but you are misinformed as to the hundred pounds; for my late aunt has left every shilling to the hospital, after her funeral expenses were discharged, which amounted to a good deal, as she was whimsical in many articles that related to her burial. How she passed us by in this manner, is still a matter of wonder and perplexity to us, as she continued to the very day of her death to declare that she had nobody to look upon, this side of heaven, but her dear nephew and nieces. She was accounted always a vain woman; but we thought her very religious, especially as she began to decline. For some months before she died, she never missed morning or evening service throughout the week, besides her private devotion in her own house, at which none of the family were suffered to be present. The minister and she would sometimes stay two or three hours together. She used often to discourse upon charity, and said she loved the poor; though I do not remember to have seen her bestow any alms whilst I lived with her, which surprised us the more that she should leave all to them at her death. She has given them her picture too, with orders that it should be hung over the great door of the chapel. Remember, Sir, it is by your own desire I collect these trifling particulars, that concern ourselves only, and the memory of so fantastical and unjust a woman;

for such I must call her, notwithstanding I assure you I am perfectly and contentedly resigned to my lot.

“I am,” &c.

It was with great difficulty I could learn any thing relating to the old gentleman, who is mentioned to have disposed of his whole estate in this manner. Those of his blood and nearest kindred had betaken themselves to the lowest supports which employment affords to the miserable, and were either dispersed in the navy, or in such stations, that all inquiries of this sort were fruitless. The very name was obliterated everywhere, except where it pointed out the disposal of a very considerable fortune. All I could gather of him was, that he had increased a very good paternal inheritance by every art of thriving in trade, that is safely practicable ; that he was always called in the city, a hard money-getting man ; and that he had left his brothers, sisters, and grandchildren to make their way without the least provision or assistance. There was a statue erecting for him, I found by his own orders, in the hospital.

Thus ended my pursuit, which I quitted with as much eagerness as it was undertaken. I was displeased over and over with myself at my search, and wished for that tranquillity of mind, which is always the portion of a happy ignorance. The stream, as I viewed it, was clear ; and it is certain I went out of my way to look at the fountain. The generosity I at first contemplated with rapture, was now exchanged for the disgust I felt at pride and injustice. Were strokes, indeed, of this nature not so severe in their effect, there is something so ridiculous in these ostentatious charities, and such an

absurdity in appropriations of this sort, under the circumstances I have described, that I confess I could indulge a less serious reflection at the examination of them.

The two originals above have many counterparts in this nation; persons who are frequently so very charitable as to reduce their whole families to beggary. The raising a church, or endowing an hospital, are the two main objects of an elderly sinner's piety; and no matter by what means, so that the end be but accomplished. This is such a compendious way of discharging all the duties of life at once, and at the expense only of what there is no possibility of retaining any longer, that no wonder these sponges of charity are in so much use at some certain periods, and at such alone.

I would not dwell upon errors which I thought incorrigible, or endeavour to discover causes without hopes of amending the effects; but I am really of opinion that the grievances here set forth owe their birth chiefly to a few mistakes, which my acceptance of the word charity inclines me very much to rectify, for the service especially of these pious and liberal benefactors; for such I make no question, many of them are; only, as I have said before, they are unfortunate enough to lie under some mistakes. In the first place, therefore, I shall venture to lay it down as a maxim, that there is no such thing as posthumous charity. There may be equity, and there may be propriety, in a last designation of earthly goods, but real or intrinsic generosity or benevolence there can be none.

—*Quo more pyris vesci Calaber jubet hospes.*

HOR. EPIST. i. 7. 14.

It is a modern supposition, nourished by hope
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and weakness, that leads people to reckon upon an act that does not take place whilst they are alive. I do not remember that any one of the apostles, the preachers and examples of every social obligation, ever enforced the duty of testamentary acts of goodness ; nor did David set apart a charge upon the revenue his son was to enjoy after him, towards building a temple, which he found was not to be the glory of his own reign.

Another error which I hope to set right, arises from the general idea of poverty, which seems not to be very well settled. The poor under your eye, and the poor unborn, stand in a very different relation of indigence together. Thus a crippled, penniless sister, or an infirm cousin, are thought by no means equal objects of bounty with the future offspring of a future beggar. All that I have to say to a persuasion of this sort is, that I will affirm, a relation or dependent left to starve, is in every article as true a beggar as any between St. Paul's and St. Peter's. Upon the whole, since money has no currency on the other side of the grave, and no real value but in its application on this, I could wish the last disposition of it were a little better considered. It is but reasonable, surely, to expect that those who do no good with it whilst they live, should do less mischief with it when they die.

No. 171. THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1756.

THERE is no privilege of which an Englishman is so jealous, nor for which he so highly values the constitution of his country, as the liberty that is allowed him, not only of thinking as he pleases, but of generously communicating his thoughts to the public. This glorious charter, limited as it is, and ought to be, by wholesome laws, has infinite advantages derived from it; particularly as it tends to cultivate the liberal arts, and helps to carry on the great work of science. But whether it is always for the improvement of our taste, any more than of our morals, that we should be allowed to realize our sentiments, especially where the object falls immediately under the public eye, is a question that may perhaps admit of a debate.

Thus, for instance, if an ingenious gentleman, for the greater embellishment of his private library, should think proper to erect the head, or even the entire figure, of a shaking mandarine, between the busts of Tully and Demosthenes, or to exalt the divinities of Pekin to the same degree of honour in his gallery that he has already paid to the Grecian Venus and Apollo, it would be an infringement upon British liberty to check his devotion. But if the same innovating taste should intrude upon the muses' shrine in our public seats of learning, I should wish for some authority to stop so sacrilegious an attempt.

The same care should extend even to our amuse-

ments ; I do not mean to debar any of them from their right of appearing as often as their patrons please to call for them ; I would only assign them the proper limits of time and place, and prevent their bringing any confusion upon themselves and others. It is certainly very just, that Harlequin should flourish with his dagger of lath, and invert the order of nature whenever he finds it necessary ; but though I am delighted with the ingenuity of my parti-coloured friend, it would grieve me to see him so far mistake his talents, as to introduce himself very familiarly into the company of Shakspeare and Jonson.

To carry this observation a little higher, I think any one of our public entertainments, that more peculiarly belongs to the refined part of the world, should be preserved from any alloying mixture that may sink and debase its value, or make us look upon its standard below the original worth that it pretends to claim. It is upon this account, that I cannot enough lament the present state of our Italian opera, which seems to be continually declining, without any friendly hand to interpose which might restore it to its native purity, or preserve it from total decay. But before this kind reformer can be met with, or if any such should appear, before his endeavours could hope for any success, it will be proper to examine our own taste, to find whether it will stand the trial, and whether we should not think his care very impertinent and ill applied.

At present, our attention seems to be so entirely fixed upon air, that we think nothing enhances the value of an opera so much as allowing the performers to introduce their own favourite songs at pleasure ; and this elegant assortment, selected

from dramas of opposite subjects, written by poets of irreconcilable geniuses, and set to music by composers of contrary feelings, is served up, to our inexpressible satisfaction, and eagerly devoured under the modish title of a *Pistacchio*.

If I may be permitted to enter into a serious disquisition of this entertainment, after what I have said of it in a former paper, I must beg leave to observe, that the Italian opera carries much more meaning in it than one part of its audience is possibly aware of, and many of the other part are willing to allow; but it is therefore necessary to choose *Metastasio* for the poet, upon whose single merit this species of drama must stand or fall.

And here, notwithstanding the laudable partiality which directs us to give the palm to our own countrymen, it must be confessed that this foreigner has at least as good a title to it as any English tragedian of this century; and if, like them too, he has not the advantage of striking out much that is new, he has the happiness of throwing an air of novelty upon the sentiments which he adopts, by the agreeable dress he gives them, and the advantageous point of view in which they are placed.

It would be exceeding the bounds of this paper to dwell upon every peculiar excellency; but it is no more than justice to enter into a fair examination, and, without any invidious comparison, to inquire whether his thoughts are not as pure and as classical, his language as expressive and poetical, his characters as distinctly marked, as strongly supported, and as judiciously finished, his conduct of the drama as well carried on, and leading as clearly to the grand catastrophe, as those among the most admired of our modern writers. In the last circumstance he has a difficulty in his way, which the

ablest hand would sometimes be at a loss to remove; as the nature of this work requires every thing to be brought to a happy conclusion, it cannot but be observed with how masterly a step he deviates from the true to the feigned event, without confusion, or swerving from the intention of his original plan.

But it is not sufficient to examine Metastasio's pretensions by the common rules of criticism; there is much more required of him than of the ordinary tragic poet; not only as he is confined to the measure of three acts, but even these must be concisely managed, to avoid the drowsiness of a weary recitative. His dialogue, therefore, and even his narration, is short as it is clear; a significant expression, sometimes a single word, conveys a whole sentiment, and that without leaving room for doubt, or throwing the least obscurity. His soliloquies, where the composer has an opportunity of introducing the accompanied recitative, perhaps the most noble part of an opera, are not only distinguished by the finest touches of poetry, but abound in all that variety and transition of passions which naturally work in the human mind, when it is wrought up to the height of its distress. His songs and choruses, where all the power of music ought to combine, are made up of sentiment; these, indeed, are so finely imagined, and finished with so happy an elegance, that perhaps they would not suffer even by appearing among the ancient lyric writers.

If this be true of our poet, and surely it is but justice to allow him this, let us bring him upon the stage, attended as he ought. And here, it is not enough that the composer be thoroughly skilled in all the art of music, and feel the whole force of it, but he must partake of the poet's spirit, catch the

flame through every scene, and be so far wrapt in the genius of his author, as to preserve the same cast of sentiment through the whole work. This, indeed, is so necessary an attention to his character, that a single composer, though but of the second class, who shall follow him with affection, and enter into a social feeling with him as far as he is capable, will do him more justice than a suite of the ablest masters at his heels, who perform their alternate services, and consider his ideas separately, without having regard to the union and harmony of the whole.

But let the poet and his attendant harmonist be ever so happily united, there is still a reasoning, but perhaps not the most feeling, part of mankind, who will by no means allow the opera any dramatic merit, and consequently deprive it at once of its distinguishing worth. Their judgment, it seems, is irreparably hurt, in finding heroes conquering, rivals contending, lovers despairing, to the sound of music; and they cannot reconcile it to their senses, that people who seem discoursing upon very interesting subjects, should be obliged to do it by time and measure. The learned among these will probably meet with an apology, from something similar upon the Grecian stage, and the others will do well to consider whether they are not literal critics in music, as grammarians are in learning; perhaps they cannot separate from harmony the idea of fiddlestrings and pipes, any more than these can from language the invariable chime of adverb, conjunction, and preposition; whereas the music we are speaking of, is the voice of nature, in her various accents of joy, grief, rage, lamentation, pity, or despair. The notes, indeed, are divested of their wildness, have their temperaments, cadences,

and limits ; but they seem to be no other than the laws which nature has set them, and their bounds are too nicely concealed to have the appearance of borrowing any thing from art.

A distinguishing ear, or rather a feeling heart, that yields to the impression which a noble accompaniment carries with it, will be so far from calling off his attention from the principal part, or considering the additional harmony as the effect of mechanic art, that it will more intimately strike him as a sympathetic sense, which arises in the mind itself, unconnected and independent of any assistance from without. Even those whose ideas are less abstracted, but who have souls prepared for the reception of harmony, when they hear from the orchestra, the animating strains, or dying falls, as Shakspeare expresses it, will, without any critical reflections, consider them as having the same effect upon the ear, as a well-painted scene upon the eye, where that man would surely wrong his imagination much, who, instead of indulging it in the supposed reality of rocks, woods, and rivers, should check his feeling at once, and consider every thing before him merely as canvas and colours.

If these observations are at all founded upon truth, an opera, well conducted, must be one of the noblest representations that lies within the reach of mimic art, and consequently there cannot be too much care and attention employed to produce it with every advantage. How this will best be effected, may perhaps be worth the inquiry ; but it can only be so upon a supposition that the thing itself has really a great share of that merit which it pretends to assume. There cannot, indeed, be a stronger ridicule than to give an air of importance to amusements, if they are in themselves con-

temptible and void of real taste ; but, if they are the object and care of the judicious and polite, and really deserve that distinction, the conduct of them is certainly of consequence, as that alone will determine the public approbation, and by that only their patrons can preside over them with dignity.

No. 172. THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1756.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ THE impatience of the public to be further instructed in the royal game of happiness, has, no doubt, been very great, since your publication of my letter on that subject, the eleventh of last month ; for where the stake is so considerable, the desire of playing the game to the best advantage must needs be excessive ; and where the cards are so numerous, though the generality of players think them too few, the address required must be almost infinite.

“ Had it not been for this truly entertaining game, Adam and Eve, with all their innocence, had passed their hours but dully, even in paradise. Before the Fall, they played the game in its original purity, and with the utmost skill ; afterwards, indeed, they were guilty of many revokes and oversights, as were their immediate descendants, though they consumed an immense quantity of packs of cards. Methuselah spent more time at the game than any man, but with what success is not ab-

solutely certain. Tradition, with tolerable exactness, handed down the rules of play from father to son, to the death of Solomon, who, in his younger years, was a great lover of this game; it afterwards became various and uncertain by the novelties and innovations that were everywhere introduced into it. In France, one method of play has obtained; in England, another; in Japan, it is played very different from what it is in Peru.

“From the corruption of this royal game of happiness are derived all our modern games; and so fond are we of these inventions, that the true old game is almost imperceptibly forgotten. Happy is it, therefore, for the world and me, that neither the splendid honours of the bar, the reverend dignities of the church, the profound researches of physic, nor the aerial castle of politics, have diverted my attention from the more honourable and useful investigation of the long lost rules of this royal game of happiness.

“When I considered that every science has its mystery, that chemistry has its philosopher’s stone, geometry its quadrature of the circle, astronomy its longitude, mechanics its perpetual motion, and natural philosophy its gravitation, it soon occurred to me that social life must likewise have its occult mystery, which, like a keystone in architecture, sustains and supports the whole edifice. When I considered the various and general principles of animated life, I plainly perceived that play was the great pervading power, from the leviathan that sporteth in the waters, to the microscopic insect that wantons invisibly in the air. When I considered that the mighty fabric of the universe might only be a great game played at by superior existences, I was led to think that it was agreeable to the most rever-

ential ideas of nature, to suppose that life was nothing else than play. And when I likewise considered that the passion for gaming was universally predominant in mankind; that it was the natural remedy for all cares, and the only amusement of the irksome hours, I readily discovered that life was, indeed, nothing more than a certain term allotted to play at the royal game of happiness.

“As the great secret of this game depends principally upon the playing well the court-cards, as soon as I shall have procured a patent for the sole and exclusive privilege of teaching, which I make no doubt of obtaining, by the favour of some great men, my particular friends, who have more than once pulled off their hats to me; and one in particular, who was so graciously condescending as to ask me one day what o’clock it was, I shall then take care to appoint under-teachers in every parish, to instruct the good people in the country in the best and properest manner of playing the seventh cards, which, when they are thorough masters of, they will soon become perfect in playing the other cards.

“Having, in my former letter, touched upon the general properties of the game, in compliance with my promise, I here subjoin the most necessary rules and directions for attaining a thorough knowledge of this royal game.

‘RULES AND DIRECTIONS FOR PLAYING AT THE
ROYAL GAME OF HAPPINESS.

‘When you begin a new game, recall to your memory the manner in which you played the foregoing one, that you may avoid a repetition of the same mistakes.

‘When you have well considered the card you

are about to play, play it with steadiness and composure ; and be sure not to betray any suspicion of your own ignorance.

‘When you shuffle or cut, do it above-board, to prevent any suspicion of deceit.

‘If you have won a large share of the stake, by playing a particular card well, be cautious of venturing it all on any single card in the same deal, unless you play a forced game.

‘Whether you play a small or a great game, exert your best skill ; and take care not to discover the badness of your hand by peevishness or fretting.

‘Observe the play of others, and draw consequences from it for the improvement of your own game.

‘If you play at court, remember to hold up your hand, and attend to the finesses of the place. If you play your cards well there, you may conclude yourself a tolerable master of the game.

‘When you are in the country, play frequently with your neighbours and tenants ; they generally play better than finer folks, and will greatly improve you in the plain rules of the game.

‘Avoid the general error of this game, of fancying that everybody plays better at it than yourself.

‘If you agree with a lady to go halves with her, the agreement once made, you are not at liberty afterwards to find fault with her game.

‘Whoever drops a card, loses it ; and one card lost is of very bad consequence in the game.

‘When a card is once played, it can never be recalled.

‘Seldom play from your own hand ; you win most by playing into the hands of other people.

‘Teach your children to play the game early, and be sure to put money in their card-purses ; for

if they wait for it till your death, it may be too late to learn the game.

‘Good-humour is a more necessary requisite at this game than good sense ; but where both are joined, success is almost certain.

‘The greatest proficients in all other games are the most ignorant at this ; the best players are those that practice most in their own families.

‘Kings and princes are generally strangers to the game, and their ministers want time to learn it.

‘Great dignitaries in the church, and most benefited clergymen, are too indolent to play at it in public ; and their curates are forced to be lookers-on, for want of a sufficient allowance to pay for their cards.

“Poets and authors have sometimes struck a bold stroke in the game ; but, of all men living, they are the most liable to mistakes ; and it is generally observable that the whole table is against them.

‘Most new-married couples are successful at first setting out ; but before the whole pack is played, they commonly lose all attention to the game.

‘It is remarkable that young people play better than old ; for avarice is the bane of the game.’

“I should be tempted, Mr. Fitz-Adam, to continue these my rules and observations, if I did not find myself running into length ; and as it is my intention to publish, very shortly, a volume upon the subject, I shall trouble you no more at this time than to assure you that I am,

“Sir,

“Your most faithful

“humble servant,

“I. T.”

No. 173. THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1756.

It was the advice of an old friend of mine, upon his death-bed, to his son, who had been guilty of some enormous offences which he wished to keep concealed, that he should take care how he offered himself as a candidate for a seat in parliament; for that an opposition would be like doomsday to him, when all his sins would be remembered and brought to light. This is generally the case at elections; the most secret actions of the candidates themselves are not only revealed, but the ashes of their ancestors are ransacked in the grave, to supply matter for scandal and defamation.

Common as this observation may be, it will enable us to account for all the malice and uncharitableness which we meet with in the world. We are all candidates for wealth, honour, or fame, and cannot bear that another should succeed in what ourselves have failed.

But why the spirit of defamation should be so frequently exerted against the dead, is a matter somewhat puzzling. Death, by putting an end to rivalry, should, one would think, put an end to all the animosities which arose from that rivalry; and the grave that buries the man should bury also his failings. But, according to Shakspeare,

The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones.

It is indeed very hard that death, which pays all

other debts, should be able to make no composition with envy; yet, so it is; and, excepting a late memorable instance, where the virtues of a great and good man were too glaring in his life to be forgotten at his death, I have scarcely known it to be otherwise. The ladies indeed, whom I am always ambitious of honouring, have too much gentleness and good-humour to defame the dead, especially their dead husbands. After burying the very worst in the world, it is usual with them, on a second marriage with the best, to put him daily in mind of the complying dispositions and other virtues of their poor dear first husband.

Happy is it that the works of men of wit, learning, and genius have justice done them after their deaths; though I am apt to believe the merit we ascribe to them then has its foundation in ill-nature; as, by admiring the productions of the dead, we are enabled, by the comparison, to condemn those of the living. We read the works of the former with a desire to find out beauties, and of the latter to discover faults. Our acquaintance with an author is another circumstance against him; we are too apt to connect the foibles of his life with what he writes; and if he has unfortunately wanted talents to shine in conversation, we are generally blind to the wit of his writings. The reasoning of an atheist in proof of a first cause, or of a libertine for morality, is sure to be laughed at by those who know them; and it is only when a man's writings can be separated from his life, that they will be read with candour and impartiality. It may be observed further, that in a country like ours, where party is apt to influence every thing, a man that professes himself openly on one side of the question, will never be allowed the least degree of merit by those

on the other. Of this the immortal Milton is a witness, whose attachments to Cromwell had thrown such a cloud over his abilities at the Restoration, that the copy of the noblest poem in the world was not only sold for a mere trifle, but many years elapsed before it was discovered to be a work worth reading. Even Addison, whose *Spectators* and other essays are deservedly the admiration of all who read them, and, by comparison with which it is a kind of fashion to condemn all other writings of the same kind, gives us to understand in his *Spectator*, No. 542, and elsewhere in that work, that he met with as many cavillers as any of his successors.

I have been led, by these reflections, seriously to consider what method an author ought to take to secure to his writings the approbation of the public while he is still alive. It was the saying of Doctor Radcliff to a young physician, who asked him what he should do to get practice: "Turn atheist, and make yourself talked of." But though many a young physician may have availed himself of this advice, there are other practices that may succeed better with an author. Personal slander has always been esteemed a very excellent method, and so indeed has wantonness; but where both are happily blended in the same work, as one sometimes sees them in very modern performances, they seldom fail of drawing the attention of the public. I have known nastiness attended with very happy effects, inasmuch as it frequently supplies the want of wit, and is sure of exciting the laugh in the genteelest companies. That the ladies are not displeased at it, is easy to be accounted for; nastiness is a stranger to them, and therefore entitled to their respect.

But if an author unfortunately wants talents for

this kind of writing, there is nothing left for him, that I know of, but to die as fast as he can, that his works may survive him. But the disadvantage, even in this case is, that common and natural deaths are but very little talked of; so that a man may give up the ghost to no manner of purpose; it is therefore most earnestly to be recommended to all authors who are ambitious of sudden and lasting fame, that they set about some device to get themselves hanged. The sessions-paper is more universally read than any other of the papers, and the deaths it records are more authentic and interesting. A good dying-speech would be an excellent preface to an author's works, and make everybody purchasers. An advertisement like the following could never fail of exciting curiosity:—

“This day are published the poetical, moral, and entertaining works of Thomas Crambo, Esq.; now under sentence of death in Newgate, for a rape and murder.”

Under these circumstances, indeed, an author may taste of fame before death, and take his leap from the cart, with this comfortable assurance, that he has embraced the only opportunity in his power of making a provision for his family.

If it should be asked why the having committed a rape or a murder should raise the curiosity of the public to peruse the author's works? the answer is, that people who do spirited things, are supposed to write in a spirited manner. It is for this reason that we are so fond of the histories of warriors and great men, who, though they have happened to escape the gallows, have done something every day to show that they deserved it.

It is indeed as much to be wondered at as lamented, that while every author knows how essen-

tial it is, both to his fame and the support of his family, to get himself hanged, we do not see the words Executed at Tyburn, always subjoined to his name in the title-page of his works. I hope it is not that authors have less regard for their families than other men, that this is not usually the case; for, as to the love of life, we cannot suppose them to be possessed of it in an equal degree with other people; nor can they possibly be ignorant that the world will have a particular satisfaction in hearing that they have made so desirable an end.

As for myself, I am an old man, and have not spirit enough to engage in any of those enterprises that would entitle my works to universal esteem. It was expected, indeed, that when I declared in my first paper against meddling with religion, I would avow myself an atheist in the second; but this is a discovery that I have not hitherto thought proper to make; nor have I, by any strokes of personal abuse, lewdness, or nastiness, endeavoured to introduce my papers into every family. And, to confess the truth, I have at present no designs of committing any capital offence; being, as I said before, too old to ravish, and having too tender a disposition to commit a murder. I shall therefore content myself with going on in the old way, and leave my writings to shift for themselves, without deputing the Ordinary of Newgate to publish an account of the birth, parentage, and education; the trial, confession, condemnation, and execution of the author, together with a catalogue of the works he has left behind him.

No. 174. THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1756.

THE following letter has so genuine and natural an air, that I cannot doubt of its coming from a correspondent who has experienced every circumstance he has described ; I shall therefore lay it before my readers without the alteration of a single word.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ Among the variety of subjects with which you have entertained and instructed the public, I do not remember that you have anywhere touched upon the folly and madness of ambition ; which, for the benefit of all those who are dissatisfied with their present situations, I beg leave to illustrate by giving the history of my own life.

“ I am the son of a younger brother of a good family, who, at his decease, left me a little fortune of a hundred pounds a year. I was put early to Eton school, where I learnt Latin and Greek, from whence I went to the university, where I learnt — not totally to forget them. I came to my fortune while I was at college ; and, having no inclination to follow any profession, I removed myself to town, and lived for some time as most young gentlemen do, by spending four times my income. But it was my happiness, before it was too late, to fall in love, and to marry a very amiable young creature, whose fortune was just sufficient to repair the breach made in my own. With this agreeable companion I retreated to the

country, and endeavoured, as well as I was able, to square my wishes to my circumstances. In this endeavour, I succeeded so well, that except a few private hankerings after a little more than I possessed, and now and then a sigh when a coach-and-six happened to drive by me in my walks, I was a very happy man.

"I can truly assure you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that though our family economy was not much to be boasted of, and, in consequence of it, we were frequently driven to great straits and difficulties, I experienced more real satisfaction in this humble situation than I have ever done since in more enviable circumstances. We were sometimes, indeed, a little in debt, but, when money came in, the pleasure of discharging what we owed was more than an equivalent for the pain it put us to ; and though the narrowness of our circumstances subjected us to many cares and anxieties, it served to keep the body in action as well as the mind ; for, as our garden was somewhat large, and required more hands to keep it in order than we could afford to hire, we laboured daily in it ourselves, and drew health from our necessities.

"I had a little boy who was the delight of my heart, and who probably might have been spoilt by nursing if the attention of his parents had not been otherwise employed. His mother was naturally of a sickly constitution, but the affairs of her family, as they engrossed all her thoughts, gave her no time for complaint. The ordinary troubles of life which, to those who have nothing else to think of, are almost insupportable, were less terrible to us than to persons in easier circumstances ; for it is a certain truth, however your readers may please to receive it, that where the mind is divided between many

cares, the anxiety is lighter than where there is only one to contend with. Or even in the happiest situation, in the midst of ease, health, and affluence, the mind is generally ingenious at tormenting itself, losing the immediate enjoyment of those invaluable blessings, by the painful suggestion that they are too great for continuance.

“These are the reflections that I have made since ; for I do not attempt to deny that I sighed frequently for an addition to my fortune. The death of a distant relation, which happened five years after our marriage, gave me this addition, and made me, for a time, the happiest man living. My income was now increased to six hundred a year, and I hoped, with a little economy, to be able to make a figure with it. But the ill health of my wife, which in less easy circumstances had not touched me so nearly, was now constantly in my thoughts, and soured all my enjoyments. The consciousness, too, of having such an estate to leave my boy, made me so anxious to preserve him, that, instead of suffering him to run at pleasure where he pleased, and to grow hardy by exercise, I almost destroyed him by confinement. We now did nothing in our garden, because we were in circumstances to have it kept by others ; but as air and exercise were necessary for our healths, we resolved to abridge ourselves in some unnecessary articles, and to set up an equipage. This, in time, brought with it a train of expenses which we had neither prudence to foresee, nor courage to prevent. For, as it enabled us to extend the circuit of our visits, it greatly increased our acquaintance, and subjected us to the necessity of making continual entertainments at home, in return for all those which we were invited to abroad. The charges that attended this new manner of living were much too

great for the income we possessed ; insomuch that we found ourselves, in a very short time, more necessitous than ever. Pride would not suffer us to lay down our equipage ; and, to live in a manner unsuitable to it, was what we could not bear to think of. To pay the debts I had contracted, I was soon forced to mortgage, and at last to sell, the best part of my estate ; and as it was utterly impossible to keep up the parade any longer, we thought it advisable to remove of a sudden, to sell our coach in town, and to look out for a new situation, at a great distance from our acquaintance.

“ But, unfortunately for my peace, I carried the habit of expense along with me, and was very near being reduced to absolute want, when, by the unexpected death of an uncle and his two sons, who died within a few weeks of each other, I succeeded to an estate of seven thousand pounds a year.

“ And now, Mr. Fitz-Adam, both you and your readers will undoubtedly call me a very happy man ; and so, indeed, I was. I set about the regulation of my family with the most pleasing satisfaction. The splendour of my equipages, the magnificence of my plate, the crowd of servants that attended me, the elegance of my house and furniture, the grandeur of my park and gardens, the luxury of my table, and the court that was everywhere paid me, gave me inexpressible delight, so long as they were novelties ; but no sooner were they become habitual to me, than I lost all manner of relish for them ; and I discovered, in a very little time, that, by having nothing to wish for, I had nothing to enjoy. My appetite grew palled by satiety, a perpetual crowd of visitors robbed me of all domestic enjoyment, my servants plagued me, and my steward cheated me.

“ But the curse of greatness did not end here.

Daily experience convinced me that I was compelled to live more for others than myself. My uncle had been a great party man, and a zealous opposer of all ministerial measures; and, as his estate was the largest of any gentleman's in the county, he supported an interest in it beyond any of his competitors. My father had been greatly obliged by the court party, which determined me in gratitude to declare myself on that side; but the difficulties I had to encounter were too many and too great for me; insomuch that I have been baffled and defeated in almost every thing I have undertaken. To desert the cause I have embarked in would disgrace me, and to go greater lengths in it will almost undo me. I am engaged in a perpetual state of warfare with the principal gentry of the county, and am cursed by my tenants and dependents for compelling them at every election to vote, as they are pleased to tell me, contrary to their conscience.

"My wife and I had once pleased ourselves with the thought of being useful to the neighbourhood, by dealing out our charity to the poor and industrious; but the perpetual hurry in which we live, renders us incapable of looking out for objects ourselves; and the agents we intrust are either pocketing our bounty, or bestowing it on the undeserving. At night, when we retire to rest, we are venting our complaints on the miseries of the day, and praying heartily for the return of that peace which was only the companion of our humblest situation.

"This, Sir, is my history; and if you give it a place in your paper, it may serve to inculcate this important truth, that where pain, sickness, and absolute want are out of the question, no external change of circumstances can make a man more lastingly happy than he was before. It is to an igno-

rance of this truth, that the universal dissatisfaction of mankind is principally to be ascribed. Care is the lot of life; and he that aspires to greatness in hopes to get rid of it, is like one who throws himself into a furnace to avoid the shivering of an ague.

“The only satisfaction I can enjoy in my present situation is, that it has not pleased Heaven in its wrath to make me a king.

“I am, Sir,

“Your constant reader,

“and most humble servant,”

“A. B.”

No. 175. THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1756.

“TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“SIR,

“YOU must have frequently observed upon the face of that useful piece of machinery, a clock, the minute and hours hands, in their revolutions through the twelve divisions of the day, to be not only shifting continually from one figure to another, but to stand at times in a quite opposite direction to their former bearings, and to each other. Now I conceive this to be pretty much the case with that complicated piece of mechanism, a modern female, or young woman of fashion; for as such I was accustomed to consider that part of the species, as having no power to determine their own motions, and appearances, but as acted upon by the mode, and set to any point, which the party who took the lead, or,

to speak more properly, its regulator, pleased. But it has so happened in the circumrotation of modes and fashions, that the present set are not only moving on continually from one pretty fancy and conceit to another, but have departed quite aside from their former principles; dividing from each other in a circumstance wherein they were always accustomed to unite, and uniting where there was ever wont to be a distinction or difference.

“I do not know whether I make myself sufficiently understood; but you will easily comprehend my drift when I tell you that the prevailing mode, in respect of dress, is at present to have no mode at all. There is now no such thing as a uniform among the ladies, no dutiful conformity to the pattern or standard, as heretofore; but the mode is laid open, and there appears the same spirit against a conclusive fashion, as against an exclusive trade. The pride now is to get as far away as possible, not only from the vulgar, but from one another, and that too as well in the first principles of dress, as in its subordinate decorations; so that this fluctuating humour is perpetually showing itself in some new and particular sort of cap, flounce, knot, or tippet; and every woman that you meet, affects independency, and to set up for herself.

“Now, as I profess myself to be a stickler for liberty, and against all invidious limitations, as well as a lover of variety, and an encourager of invention, I am therefore not displeased with these fair independents for this notable attempt of theirs to vindicate the honour and freedom of their own fancies and judgments upon this occasion. But as they have wandered away from each other in the several articles of dress, so have they united altogether as happily in a point which cannot fail of recommend-

ing itself to such as have a critical ear, and are apt to be offended with any disagreement of sounds, namely, in voice and elocution, in which they maintain a surprising uniformity. A friend of mine, whose ear, as you will perceive from what I am going to relate of him, is not turned for our modern oratory, was introducing the other day some uncourtly observations upon this head, which I shall take the freedom to set down at full length.

“ ‘The beauty and power of speech,’ says he, ‘was wont to be the result of clearness and perspicuity, of a distinct and harmonious elocution, of a just and proper cadence, together with a natural and easy diversity of manner and phrase, growing out of the subject, and congenial with it. Conversation is never so pleasing as when it is composed of a well-ordered variety of persons and characters, tempering and recommending each other; where the forward and importunate are qualified and restrained by the diffident and the modest; the bold and peremptory by the more supple and complaisant; where the spirited with the meek, the lively with the sedate, make a happy mixture; and all together go into the composition of an agreeable society. Whereas the conversation of the female world,’ continues my friend, ‘is at present all out of the same piece; all distinctions are taken away, and the several ranks and orders among them laid into one. There is one line of sentiment, air, manner, tone, and phrase running through the whole, and no discerning, for a few seconds, a young woman, with six or eight hundred pounds to her fortune, from a duchess, especially if she happens to have been allowed to keep company with her betters. I know several of these humble companions, who, with no less impropriety than impotence, are ever straining

themselves and their throats in company, to get upon a level with their quality friends ; and at all other times you shall see them affecting to speak, as the Latins well express it, *ore rotundo*, full and sonorous, round and peremptory, with a very decisive emphasis, as if there could lie no appeal from their sentence ; taking a larger scope for utterance, by opening their mouths to a disproportionate width ; insomuch that I have looked upon myself, while in their company, as sitting in the midst of half a score of hautboys, a sort of music, that, when attempted by unskilful hands, has something in it mightily overbearing, though they tell me, when exercised by such as are qualified for it, and mixed with other instruments, it will answer very well. Such is the pomp of utterance of our present women of fashion ; which, though it may tend to spoil many a pretty mouth, can never recommend an indifferent one. And hence it is that there is so great a scarcity of originals, and that the ear is such a daily sufferer from an identity of phrase, whether it be vastly, horridly, abominably, immensely, or excessively, which, with three or four more calculated for the same Swiss-like service, make up the whole scale or gamut of modern female conversation.

“ ‘ There are many causes assigned,’ continues he, ‘ why so many of the males live single, and it has been principally ascribed to the cheap and easy opportunities of gratification which fall in their way. Now this may in great measure be true ; but our fine ladies forget, that while they are daily making some new revelation of their persons, and are so studious to furnish out a variety of entertainment to the eye, they have neglected to make a suitable provision for the ear ; and that, should love chance to straggle in at the former, he may yet find his way

out at the latter. And I have frequently remarked, that when a female of this turn, with her sails and streamers out, has begun to bear down, in hopes of a prize, the object of the chase has frequently sheered off, and left her to complain of her ill-success to those much fitter companions, the winds and waves.

“ Now the members of this class are the most considerable in point of numbers ; but when, upon my retiring from some of these, and betaking myself to a distant and more peaceable quarter of the room, I have fallen in with others, whose conversation has been of a more moderate cast, and more under the wind, yet I have still observed the same monotony to prevail, the same conformity of manner and phrase, and that their pipes were all tuned to the same quality note. For, as in the former instance, the generality of those in high life are ever raising their voices to a proportionable elevation above the ordinary level, and distinguishing themselves by a round and sonorous elocution ; so there are others of the same class, who, seeing nature has not furnished them with an adequate strength of lungs, or with organs framed for a more bold and voluble utterance, have therefore a good deal of what Tully calls the *concisum ac minutum*, a laconic, mincing kind of speech, extremely quick and peremptory, equally emphatical and decisive, and generally enforced with a short dictatorial bridle and nod of the head, as an incontestable ratification of what they are pleased to affirm or deny. And these, as well as the above mentioned, have multitudes of inferior admirers, and copyists in their train, pressing close behind, and treading upon their heels.

“ ‘ It is true, I am an enemy, for the most part, to that reigning practice of making the person who

last left the company a subject for general canvass by those that remain; yet whenever any of these non-originals, whom we cannot so properly pronounce to be full of themselves as full of other people, shall have taken her leave, and got the door upon her back, the company, in my opinion, should have free scope and license to go into an immediate inquiry who she is, what fortune she has, what her education has been, whether handsome, tolerable, or, &c., and so on through the usual course of particulars. In short.' —

"My friend was going on in the same strain, when I interposed, and began to expostulate with him upon some of the above particulars, 'Nay, nay,' says he, 'do not think me partial, neither; I may perhaps give them their revenge upon our sex, at some future opportunity;' and so left me.

"Upon the whole, I very much suspect, as I said before, that my friend's ear is none of the best; but at the same time I must do him the justice to observe, that I myself am at times somewhat deaf, and that he is generally allowed to be a very sensible well-judging-man.

"I am, Mr. Fitz-Adam," &c.

My honest correspondent appears to be in some pain, lest the freedom and simplicity of his friend's argument may not happen to square with that delicacy and complaisance which have been hitherto maintained by The World towards the beautiful part of our species; but however that be, I must confess that I have fallen of late myself into somewhat of the same train of thinking.

It is certain, there is a distinction and subordination of style, as well as of rank, and a gradation to be preserved in point of phraseology, as well as of

precedency. Any eneroachment in the one case being altogether as unseemly as in the other. An affectation of talking above our level, is as bad as dressing above it ; and that which is current within the precincts of St. James's, will hardly pass anywhere else. Here the originals are to be found ; all the rest are counterfeits, and are easily discovered. Nay, though people of quality have the unquestionable privilege of breaking the peace, and violating the laws of grace and harmony, there ought, nevertheless, to be a due proportion observed even among these. Thus, a duchess may be twice as loud and overbearing as a countess ; a countess as a simple baroness, and so downward ; but such a pompousness of elocution, phrase, and manner, as my correspondent's acquaintance seems to point at, such great swelling words, must, one would think, sit as ill upon one of a moderate face, rank, or fortune, as a great swelling hoop is found to do upon another not five foot high.

No. 176. THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1756.

GOING to visit an old friend at his country seat, last week, I found him at backgammon with the vicar of the parish. My friend received me with the heartiest welcome, and introduced the 'doctor to my acquaintance. This gentleman, who seemed to be about fifty, and of a florid and healthy constitution, surveyed me all over with great attention,

and, after a slight nod of the head, sat himself down without opening his mouth. I was a little hurt at the supercilious behaviour of this divine, which, my friend observing, told me, very pleasantly, that I was rather too old to be entitled to the doctor's complaisance; for that he seldom bestowed it but upon the young and vigorous; but, says he, you will know him better soon, and may probably think it worth your while to book him in *The World*; for you will find him altogether as odd a character as he is a worthy one. The doctor made no reply to this raillery, but continued some time with his eyes fixed upon me, and at last, shaking his head, and turning to my friend, asked if he would play out the other hit? My friend excused himself from engaging any more that evening, and ordered a bottle of wine, with pipes and tobacco, to be set on the table. The vicar filled his pipe, and drank very cordially to my friend, still eying me with a seeming dislike, and neither drinking my health, nor speaking a single word to me. As I have long accustomed myself to drink nothing but water, I called for a bottle of it, and drank glass for glass with them; which, upon the doctor's observing, he shook his head at my friend, and, in a whisper, loud enough for me to hear, said: 'Poor man, it is all over with him, I see.' My friend smiled, and answered in the same audible whisper: 'No, no, doctor, Mr. Fitz-Adam intends to live as long as either of us.' He then addressed himself to me on the occurrences of the town, and drew me into a very cheerful conversation, which lasted till I withdrew to rest; at which time the doctor rose from his chair, drank a bumper to my health, and giving me a hearty shake by the hand, told me I was a very jolly old gentleman, and that he wished to be better

acquainted with me during my stay in the country.

I rose early in the morning, and found the doctor in the breakfast-room. He saluted me with great civility, and told me he had left his bed and home sooner than usual, to have the pleasure of taking a walk with me. 'Your friend,' says he, 'is but lately recovered from an attack of the gout, and will hardly be stirring till we have gone over his improvements.' I accepted of the proposal, and we walked through a very elegant garden into the most beautiful fields that can be imagined; which, as I stopped to admire, the doctor began thus: 'These are indeed, Mr. Fitz-Adam, very delightful grounds; and I wish, with all my heart, that the owner of them was less troubled with the gout, that I might hold him in more respect'—'Respect! doctor,' said I, interrupting him, 'does a painful distemper, acquired by no act of intemperance, lessen your respect?' 'It does, indeed, Mr. Fitz-Adam, and I wish, in this instance, I could help it; for I am under many obligations to your friend. There is another very worthy gentleman in the neighbourhood, who presented me to this vicarage; but he has the misfortune to labour under an inveterate scurvy, which, by subjecting him to continual headaches, must of course shorten his days, and so I never go near him.'

I was going to interrupt the doctor again, when a coach-and-six drove by us along the road, and in it a gentleman, who let down the glass, and made the doctor a very respectful bow; which, instead of returning, he passed by him with a stately air, and took no notice of him. This instance of his behaviour, together with the conversation that had passed between us, raised my curiosity to a very high de-

gree, and set me upon asking who the gentleman was. 'Sir,' says he, 'that unfortunate object is a man of eight thousand a year estate ; and, from that consideration, he expects the return of a bow from every man he meets. But I, who know him, know also that he is dying of an asthma ; and as, blessed be God for it ! I am in perfect health, I do not choose to put myself on a level with such a person. Health, Mr. Fitz-Adam, is the only valuable thing on earth ; and while I am in possession of that, I look upon myself as a much greater man than he. With all his fortune, he would rejoice to be the poor vicar of ***, with my constitution. I pull off my hat to no such persons. Believe me, Mr. Fitz-Adam, he has not many months to live.'

I made no reply to this conversation of the vicar, and he went on thus : 'You are an old man, Mr. Fitz-Adam, and I believe were a little fatigued with your journey last night, which I mistook for infirm health, and therefore was wanting in the civilities that I should otherwise have shown you ; but your conversation afterwards proved you to be a very hearty man, and I saw you resolved to continue so by your temperance ; for which I honour you, and, as I told you then, shall be glad of your acquaintance. It is true you are an old man, and therefore my inferior ; but you are healthy and temperate, and not beneath the notice of much younger men.'

In this manner we walked on, till we came to a hedge, where some labouring men were repairing the fences. My companion accosted them with the utmost complaisance and good-nature. 'Ay,' says he, turning to me, 'these are men worth mixing with. You see their riches in their looks. Have you any of your lords in town, Mr. Fitz-Adam,

that have such possessions ? I know none of these lords,' says he, 'myself, but I am told they are so sickly and diseased, that a man in health would scorn to pull off his hat to them.' He then entered into a familiar conversation with the men, and after throwing them sixpence to drink, passed on.

There now overtook us in the lane a company of sportsmen setting out for the chase. Most of them saluted the doctor as he passed. But he took no notice of any of them but one, whom he shook hands with over the hedge, and told him he intended taking a dinner with him the next day. 'That gentleman,' says he, 'is worth as much health as any man in England ; he hunts only by way of exercise, and never takes a leap where there is the least danger. But as for the rest they are flying over every hedge and gate in their way, and if they escape broken necks in the morning, they are destroying themselves more effectually by intemperance in the evening. No, no, Mr. Fitz-Adam, these are no companions for me ; I hope, with the blessing of Heaven, to outlive a score of them.

We came soon after to a little neat house upon the road, where, the doctor told me, lived a very agreeable widow lady, to whom he had formerly paid his addresses. 'She had at that time,' says he, 'as large a fortune of health as any woman in the country ; but she has since mortgaged it to the apothecary for slops, and I have taken my leave of her. She was determined to be a widow, and so married an officer, who got his head knocked off at Fontenoy. Those are a sort of men that I make no acquaintance with ; they hold their lives on too precarious a tenure.' 'But they are useful members of society,' said I, 'and command our esteem.' 'That may be, Sir,' returned the doctor,

‘and so are miners in our coal-pits, who are every hour in danger of being buried alive. But there is a subordination of degree, Mr. Fitz-Adam, which ought strictly to be observed ; and a man in ill health, or of a dangerous profession, should not think himself on a level with people of sound constitutions and less hazardous employments.’

I was determined to interrupt the doctor no more ; and he went on thus : ‘ Mr. Fitz-Adam, you may possibly think me an odd kind of a man ; but I am no enemy to people of bad constitutions, nor ever withhold my bounty from them, when their necessities demand it ; but though I am doing them all the services in my power, I cannot consent to lower myself so far as to make them my companions. It is more in the power of the physician to confer rank than the king ; for the gifts of fortune are nothing ; health is the only riches that a man ought to set a value on ; and without it all men are poor, let their estates be what they will. If I differ from the common opinion in this particular, I do also in another. The tradesman or mechanic, who has acquired an estate by his industry, is seldom reckoned a gentleman ; but it was always my sentiment, that a man who makes his own constitution, has more merit in him than he that was born with it ; the one is the work of chance, the other of design ; and it is for this reason that I am seen so often with your friend ; for though the gout is generally an impoverishing distemper, yet temperance and regularity may, in time, subdue it ; whereas the gentleman who drove by us with his six horses, has an incurable asthma, which renders him, with his large estate, as poor as the beggar who is dying under a hedge. The more you think of these things, Mr. Fitz-Adam, the more you will be of my opinion.

A poor man in health, is a companion for a king ; but a lord without it is a poor man indeed ; and why should he expect the homage of other people, when the very meanest of his domestics should refuse to change places with him ? ’

My companion was stopped short in his harangue by our arrival at my friend’s house. We found him in good health and spirits, which greatly heightened the vicar’s complaisance ; and as I took care to conceal from him the complaints and infirmities of old age, I passed a very agreeable week, and was so much in his good graces, that, at my departure, he presented me with some Turlington’s balsam, and a paper of Dr. James’s powder. ‘There,’ says he, ‘they may rob you of your money, if they please ; but for bruises and fevers, you may set them at defiance.’

On my return home, I made many serious reflections on this whimsical character ; and, in the end, could not help wishing that, under certain limitations, the sentiments of the vicar were a little more in fashion. Health is certainly the riches of life ; and if men were to derive their rank from that alone, it would in all probability make them more careful to preserve it. Society might be benefited by it in another respect, as it would tend to keep complaining people at home, who are the perpetual disturbers of all companies abroad.

No. 177. THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1756.

THE two following letters are so whimsically contrasted, and the young people who are the subjects of them so particularly adapted to each other, that though I have never professed myself an advocate for the trade of match-making, I cannot help wishing that, by means of this paper, they may grow acquainted with each other. It is for this reason that I have taken the very first opportunity of publishing the letters of their parents.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ As you have undertaken the social office of redressing grievances, I shall lay one before you, which I am sure must have often occurred to you, though I do not remember that you have hitherto animadverted upon it. The grievance I am speaking of has so fatal a tendency, that wit, parts, learning, education, knowledge, reading, and travel, are rendered utterly useless by it, and by which the most illiterate dunce, who has never been at school, nor opened a book besides the Fairy Tales, provided his outside be properly ornamented, is exactly upon a level with the most accomplished gentleman. This grievance, Mr. Fitz-Adam, is no other than the pernicious custom of card-playing, which has of late so universally prevailed in all private families, as well as public assemblies.

“ I am not considering this custom in its necessary

consequences of destroying fortunes and constitutions, ruffling tempers, promoting quarrels, and occasioning almost infinite distresses and disquietudes; for if taken singly in this point of view, it is only hurtful to those who are the promoters of it, and is of little or no consequence to the rest of mankind, who are not sharers in the evil.

“I must inform you, Sir, that I am the father of an only son, to whom, as I have a large estate to leave him, I have given the most perfect education that this country can afford; and it is the highest satisfaction to me that none of my care has been thrown away upon him. When he had finished his studies at the university, and perfected himself in town in all the necessary accomplishments of a young man of fashion, I sent him, under the direction of a very excellent tutor, on his travels through France, Italy, and Germany; from which, after an absence of four years, he returned last winter, improved beyond my utmost hopes.

“But, alas, Sir! when I expected to see him the admiration of all companies, and to have been everywhere congratulated on the happiness of having such a son, I found, from the universal attention to cards, that his acquirements were totally unnoticed, and that all the cost and trouble I had been at in his education, answered no other purpose than to make him company for himself, and a few unfashionable friends who have no commerce with the world.

“If this insatiable passion continues, it were as well if our public schools and universities were abolished, and that travel and all other means of acquiring knowledge and refinement were at once prohibited; and, in their places, other seminaries erected in this metropolis, and proper masters appointed, to instruct our children in the rudiments

of Brag, Cribbage, and Lansquenet, till they were of a proper age to study Whist, and the other games of skill, at the academy of Mr. Hoyle. By such a method our children would be trained up to make a figure in the world, and their parents saved the trouble and expense of a useless education.

"I wish, Mr. Fitz-Adam, you would give us your thoughts upon this matter, which will certainly be agreeable to the serious part of your readers, and a great obligation to,

" Sir,

" Your most humble servant,

" C. T.

"P. S. Since my writing the above, I have been looking over the first volume of *The World*, and am sorry to find Mr. Fitz-Adam himself so very fashionable a man, as to countenance and recommend with his pen the grievance I have been complaining of. In number 7, of your papers, you are pleased to express yourself in the following words: 'I look upon cards as an innocent and useful amusement, calculated to interrupt the formal conversations and private cabals of large companies, and to give a man something to do who has nothing to say.' If I had been your adviser, Mr. Fitz-Adam, the passage should have stood thus: 'I look upon cards as a senseless and pernicious amusement, calculated to interrupt the improving conversations and enlivening sallies of all companies, and to level men of genius and understanding with fools and coxcombs.' This is really the truth of the matter; and if you consider it as you ought, you will, I hope, retract your opinion as publicly as you have given it.

" Yours," &c.

The other letter is from a mother, complaining of the untoward disposition of an only daughter.

“SIR,

“I am a widow of five-and-thirty, with a handsome jointure, and have refused many good offers for the sake of an only child, whom I have endeavoured to bring up in the most fashionable manner I was able. She will have twelve thousand pounds to her fortune when she comes of age, and I have supported her at my own expense, that the interest of her portion may be added to the principal. I assure you, Sir, that I am not like other mothers of my youth and complexion, who, in order to appear younger than they really are, confine their grown-up daughters at home for fear of being rivalled by them in public assemblies. I thank Heaven I have no need of such arts; for, as often as I go abroad with mine, I am taken for her sister; and, I have the pleasure of observing, that I have more civil things said to me by the men than my daughter can ever hope for. Not that the girl is either ugly or awkward; she is as tall too as her mother, and has been of a marriageable age this year or two, being complete fifteen the 12th of last March; but, as a colonel in the guards was pleased to tell me a few nights ago at Ranelagh, I have a certain air and manner that my daughter must quite despair of imitating.

“I mention these trifles, Sir, to convince you that I have not the motive of other mothers for locking up my daughter whenever I go abroad; on the contrary, I have carried her, at times, to all the polite assemblies in town; but alas, Sir! I cannot make her company for people of fashion. She will neither

play at cards with them, nor enter into the spirit of their conversation. She even pretends to blush at, what she calls, the liberties I allow the men to take with me. She would not toast a sentiment for the world; and, for those delicate *double entendres* that so enliven all private companies, I cannot, for the life of me, teach her to understand them. To be sure the girl has not so white a skin as her mother, nor can she value herself upon that beautiful fall of shoulders and elegance of neck, for which, I may say it without vanity, I was always admired. But then, Mr. Fitz-Adam, those parts of her person are not absolutely odious; though, by pinning her handkerchief constantly under her chin, she would make everybody believe so.

“I have taken immense pains in her education to fit her for the world; but it is my misfortune to see, that from an accountable perverseness of mind, she had rather shut herself up in her closet, poring upon the Spectators, which, to my knowledge, she has read twenty times over, than sit down to a card-table with the first company in England. And yet the girl does not want understanding neither; nay, her uncle in the country, who is a clergyman and an archdeacon, will have it that she is the most accomplished young lady this day in England. But what can a country parson know of accomplishments? We, who live in the polite circle, are certainly the best judges of those matters. She plays well upon the music, indeed, and has an immense pretty voice; but the misfortune is, that when she should be dressing for a rout, she is either practising a lesson or singing a song; so that I must be forced to go without her, or stay till the card-tables are all full. A fig for her accomplishments! I am sure they have almost broken my heart; and, I verily believe,

I shall be tempted to marry again, that I may have other children of more towardly dispositions. It was but last Sunday, after spending the evening at cards, at the politest assembly in town, where I would gladly have taken her, that, at my return home, I found her in her dressing-room reading a sermon to her maid. I am by no means against sermons, Mr. Fitz-Adam; they do well enough at church; and, when they are enlivened by good company, I can endure them as well as anybody; but the morning is the time for those sort of things, and they ought never to interfere with more agreeable amusements.

“The girl has another whim, too. You must know she is naturally of a pale complexion; and, for all that I can say or do, I cannot prevail upon her to lay on a little red, even though she sees every day how becoming it is to me, who do not need it so much; so that she goes into company like a mere ghost; but of what sex, if it were not for her petticoats, would be hard to determine; for she is absolutely covered from head to foot. She had the sauciness to tell me the other day, that I wanted her to dress and look like a woman of the town. I would have you dress and look like a woman of the world, Miss, says I; but, to your shame be it spoken, there are women of the town who are capable of improving you. One may look like a woman of the town, though one would scorn to act like one.

“In this manner, Mr. Fitz-Adam, she talks and behaves. I have threatened her often to expose her in the World; but my immense tenderness for her has prevailed over my resentment; and, to confess the truth, I had no other intention when I drew up this letter, than only to read it to her, and frighten

her out of her follies ; but her behaviour upon the occasion determined me to send it, and to desire your publication of it. ‘ Lord, mamma,’ said she, ‘ Mr. Fitz-Adam will think you ridiculing yourself and complimenting me ; for, if I am really this kind of girl, I shall be quite in love with myself. Pray, madam, give me the letter, and I’ll carry it to Mr. Dodsley’s with my own hands.’ ‘ No Miss,’ says I, ‘ a servant will be more punctual, I believe ; and since you are so in love with your own character, it shall go this minute.’

“ Favour me so far, Sir, as to give it a place in your next Thursday’s paper ; and if you will tell her of her absurdity, and how ill suited her behaviour is both to her education and her fortune, you will immediately oblige, Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble servant,

“ M. C.”

No. 178. THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1756.

NOT long since, I met at St. James’s coffee-house. an old acquaintance of mine, Sir Harry Prigg ; whom, having been long rusticated, and much altered. I should never have recollected, had it not been for the information of a fine old coat, in which I remembered him to have made a figure about town many years ago. After the usual civilities had passed between us, amongst many other questions, he asked me when I had seen our old school-fellow,

Sir John Jolly? * I answered, that I had last summer spent some days with him at his country seat, in a manner which would have been highly agreeable to a person of a more fashionable turn, but was to me rather fatiguing from its excessive gayety and hospitality, which, according to my unpolite taste, were by no means consistent with the soft and serious pleasures of a rural retirement. He said, he perfectly agreed with me in my sentiments, and passed his time in the country in conformity to them; his manner of life, he was sure, would exactly suit me, and obligingly begged I would make the experiment, adding, that he should go down in a few days, and would carry me with him in his chariot. I accepted his invitation, not so much out of inclination as curiosity, to see a new scene of country life, formed on principles so opposite to what I had before experienced, and promised to attend him at the time appointed.

But first, it will be proper to give some account of the birth, parentage, and education of my friend. He came young to his title and a small estate, and was soon after sent to the university; where his title absurdly giving him the rank of nobility, and his estate, though small, an allowance sufficient to support that rank at that place, he there contracted an affectation of grandeur, and a pert kind of self-importance, which he has ever since retained, and which neither poverty nor solitude has been yet able to conquer. Having in two or three years acquired the usual advantages of that sort of education, such as at the arts of sporting, toasting, billiards, and coachmanship, he came to London, entered into the gay world, and had address and qualifications

* See No. 153.

sufficient to introduce himself into what he still calls the best company; that is, the company of smarts, bucks, jockeys, and gamesters. Nor was he deficient in point of gallantry; for he soon commenced an intrigue with the sister of one of these his friends. Whether his intentions were at first honourable, is not perfectly clear; but he was quickly obliged to declare them so, being acquainted that a lady of her rank was not to be trifled with, and that he must either fight or marry; the latter of which he courageously chose, as being the most daring action of the two. This lady had more gentility than beauty, more beauty than understanding, more understanding than fortune, and a fortune about equal to her reputation. She was tall and well-shaped, carried her head very high, and being the younger daughter of the younger son of the first cousin of an Irish baron, looked upon herself as a woman of quality. In a little time Sir Harry heartily hated her for compelling him to marry; and she no less despised him for being compelled; so that finding little happiness at home, they were obliged to seek it abroad at plays and routs, operas and gaming-tables, at no small expense. This could not continue long; so that before one winter was at an end, they discovered that the town-air would not agree with them, and so retired to their country-seat, about forty miles from London; whither I shall now conduct my reader.

On the morning appointed, I attended early at their lodgings in town, where I found the post-chariot at the door, and my friend standing by it, with a long whip in his hand, ready to mount the box; saying, at the same time, that coachmen were such insolent and expensive rascals, there was no keeping them, and that, therefore, he always chose

to be his own. In the parlour sat my lady, and Colonel Maeshean, a gentleman who had long been very intimate with Sir Harry, and not less so with her ladyship ; and in the passage stood her French-woman, in a sack, and long ruffles, with her arms full of bandboxes and bundles ; which were no sooner disposed of in various parts of the chariot, than my lady, and myself, with her woman on a low stool at our feet, were stuffed into the little room that was left. Sir Harry mounted the box, his *valet de chambre* rode by, and a snivelling footboy climbed up behind. Thus the whole family, with their baggage, and myself into the bargain, were conveyed without the expense of either a stage-coach or a wagon.

Nothing passed during our journey worth relating. Her ladyship spoke little, and that little was only complaints of her bad nerves and ill state of health ; to which, having no expectation of a fee, I paid little attention. They both declared that nobody but a carrier could dine at an inn, therefore they never stopped on the road ; so, with the assistance of a fresh pair of horses, that had come twenty miles that morning without a bait, about sunset we arrived at our journey's end. The colonel got there before us, having rode past ; for Sir Harry frequently declared to us both, that, though his friends were welcome, he never entertained their horses ; that it was not the fashion of that country ; neither my Lord **, nor the Duke of ***, nor himself, did it.

It was not long before the dinner made its appearance ; which was so very genteel, that, had it not been rendered uneatable by a bad affectation of French cookery, it would not have been half sufficient, after so many miles travelling, and so long

fasting. At the conclusion, we had mead, which passed for tokay, and elder wine, which Sir Harry swore was the best burgundy in England, and that he himself had imported it, in conjunction with a noble lord in the neighbourhood. Over a glass of this, the cloth being removed, he informed us, 'that when the smoke of London, and the bad hours incident to keeping good company, would no longer agree with his own or his wife's constitution, he had determined to seek health and quiet in an elegant retirement. He had been offered, indeed, a seat in parliament, and a considerable employment; but his crazy constitution would not permit him to accept of the one, nor his sound principles of the other. Retirement was their object; therefore all they dreaded was the horrible irruptions of a country neighbourhood; but this they had happily prevented. That indeed, on their first coming, every family within ten miles round tormented them with their impertinent visits; but they returned none, affronted them all, and so got rid of them. 'Don't you think we did right, my dear?' turning to his wife. 'I think,' answered she, in a surly and dejected voice, 'that it is better to forget the use of one's tongue, than to converse with squires' wives and parsons' daughters.' 'You are right, madam,' added the colonel, with an oath and a loud laugh, 'for what can one learn in such damned company?' 'To-morrow,' says my friend, addressing himself to me, 'you shall see that we want no company, and that we can sufficiently amuse ourselves with building and planting, with improvements and alterations, which I dare say will be honoured with your approbation.'

Accordingly the next morning, as soon as breakfast was finished, my lady and the colonel retired

into her dressing-room to cribbage, and Sir Harry and myself to reconnoitre the place. The house stands at the end of a dirty village, and close by it are a few tame deer, impounded in an orchard, to which he gives the pompous title of a park. Behind is a fen, which he calls a piece of water, and before it a goose-common, on which he bestows the name of a lawn. It was built in that deplorable era of English architecture, which introduced high doors, long windows, small rooms, and corner chimneys ; and of gardening, which projected gravel walks, elipt yews, and straight lined avenues, with a profusion of brick walls, iron palisades, and leaden images. But all these defects, and many others, he has now corrected by a judicious application of modern taste. His doors are so reduced, you cannot enter with your hat on ; and his windows so contracted, that you have scarce light enough to find it, if you pull it off. In the midst of the front, one large bow-window is stuck on, resembling a piece of whited-brown paper plastered on a broken nose ; and a great room is added behind to dine in, which, was it ever inhabited, would make all the little ones appear still less ; but having never yet been finished, for want both of cash and credit, it remains at present only a repository of broken china, a pair of backgammon tables, and the children's playthings. His brick walls are converted into chimneys and ovens, and his yew-trees supply them with fagots ; his iron-work is sold to the blacksmiths, and his heathen gods to the plumber, for the pious use of covering the parish church ; his gravel walks are sown with grass ; and he frequently repeats that frugal, yet genteel maxim, that sheep are the best gardeners. His horsepond being made serpentine, is become useless, lest it should

be trod up; and his fences, being all Chinese, are no fences at all; the horses leaping over, and the hogs walking under them at their pleasure. The transplanted avenue is expiring in leafless platoons; the kitchen-garden, for conveniency, is removed two furlongs from the house; and the kitchen itself unjustly turned out of doors, for smelling of victuals; a crime of which it has ever been acquitted by the voice of the whole country.

When our survey was finished, our amusements were all at an end; for within doors the pleasures both of society and solitude were equally wanting. Of our conversation I have given a specimen; and books there were none, except a small one containing tunes for the French-horn, belonging to Sir Harry; and the third volume of *Peregrine Pickle*, and a methodist prayer-book, the property of her ladyship. I began now to wish for a little of my friend Sir John's hospitality, of which there was not here the least appearance. We heard not of a human creature, except by their injuries and insults, not altogether, indeed, unprovoked; for the pantry and the cellar, though usually empty, were always locked. Strong beer there was none; and the small, though nobody at home could drink it, was not suffered to be given away. The servants were always out of humour, and frequently changing; and the tradesmen who brought their bills, were paid only by a wrangle, or a draft on some tenant who owed no rent. There was not a neighbour very near except the parson of the parish, and Alderman Grub, a rich citizen, who had purchased a considerable part of it from Sir Harry. With these they lived in a state of perpetual hostilities; they quarrelled with the alderman for presuming to buy an estate which they wanted to sell; and the parson

quarrelled with them, because he was in possession of the only living in the gift of Sir Harry, and the alderman had a much better to dispose of. By the encouragement of these good neighbours, and their own ill-conduct, consisting of a strange mixture of insolence and avarice, of meanness and magnificence, they were despised, persecuted, and affronted by all around them. Their pigs were worried, their poultry murdered, their dogs poisoned, their game destroyed, their hedges broke, and their haystacks set on fire. They were hissed and hooted at; and now and then a great pair of horns were fixed on their gates; an insult at which they were highly enraged, but the meaning of which neither Sir Harry nor my lady, not even with the assistance of the colonel, could ever guess at.

I soon grew weary of this land of contention and uneasiness; and, having recourse to the old excuse of urgent business, I took my leave, and went post to town; reflecting all the way, with surprise, on the ingenuity of mankind to render themselves at once miserable and ridiculous; and lamenting that the happiness and innocence of rural life are now scarce anywhere to be found, but in pastorals and romances.

2

No. 179. THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1756.

I AM never better pleased than when I can oblige a group of correspondents at once. This I am enabled to do in my paper of to-day.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ The expediency of people's putting up bills at their doors, who have houses or lodgings to let, is so very apparent, that as often as I walk the streets of this metropolis, I wonder that the same practice has not prevailed in other instances, and that we do not see it written at every door as often as there is occasion, wanted a coachman, butler, cook, chambermaid, &c. By such a method the expense of public advertisements would be saved, and everybody accommodated in the most expeditious manner.

“ But I would by no means confine these bills to lodgers and servants; there are other wants which are at least equally pressing, and which it might be proper to signify in the same public manner. Thus, for instance, at the door of an attorney or solicitor, it would not be amiss if we were to read in large letters, Wanted Honesty. At the door of a new beneficed parson, Wanted Humility. At the garret window of a poet or author, Wanted a Dinner. At the door of a man of quality, Wanted Credit. At the door of a patriot, Wanted a Place. At the door of a bishop, Wanted a House at Lambeth. And, at the doors of all great men, Wanted Sincerity.

“ By this method the wants of all mankind would be known, and, in all probability, be relieved more expeditiously than by any other means.

“ If you give this proposal a place in your paper, you will oblige the public in general, and, in particular,

“ Sir,

“ Your most humble servant,

“ C. L.”

“ MR. FITZ-ADAM,

“ The following advertisement has lately fallen

into my hands ; and, I believe, with a few of your observations upon it, it might furnish some entertainment for the public, as you have already made some very just remarks upon servants, in your paper of the first of January last.

“ I am Sir, &c.”

‘ ADVERTISEMENT.

‘ The grooms of the chambers, butlers, and other servants of persons of quality, concerned in card-money, are desired to meet at the society’s quarterly meeting place, St. James’s, on Friday, the 12th of this instant March, at nine in the morning, to take under consideration the further duty said to be intended to be laid on cards.

‘ Note. It is desired that no gentleman, &c., belonging to noblemen or others, will enter into any agreement with their ladies as to card-money, &c., till after this meeting. The servants of citizens and tradesmen, whose mistresses keep routs, may attend if they think proper.

‘ The best of teas, French rolls and butter will be provided on the occasion.’

“ TO THE AUTHOR OF THE WORLD.

“ SIR,

“ I am married to a haberdasher of small wares at the court end of the town ; and, with Heaven’s help and my own, my husband has been able to lay up a few hundreds for our two girls, who are all the children we have. They both serve in the shop every day in the week but Thursday, when I have a little assembly in the dining-room, where we amuse ourselves with a pack of cards.

“ Now, you must know, Sir, that my husband is

very much offended at this, and is telling me twenty times a day that his customers are neglected, and the business of the shop standing still from my fooleries, as he calls them. I do not deny, Sir, that these assemblies on a week day are a little inconvenient to us, and therefore I have some thoughts of changing them to Sunday. To be sure, a Sunday's assembly would be perfectly agreeable on many accounts. In the first place, it would interfere with no sort of business. Secondly, it would be much genteeler. Thirdly, I should see a great deal more company; and, fourthly, my husband and the 'prentice would be at leisure to attend the tea-table. But I have one doubt about the matter, which is, that there are envious people in the world, who might possibly give out that I am setting up for a person of fashion; for it is a notion they have got, that none but people of fashion should have routs on a Sunday. At present I am undetermined in this affair, and am resolved to continue so till I have your opinion; which I beg you will give me as soon as possible; and

“I am, Sir,

“Your very humble servant,

“MARY TAPE.”

In answer to Mrs. Tape, I freely confess that she has more substantial reasons for having her rout on a Sunday than any lady I know; and whenever I give my assent to card meetings on that day, she shall certainly be indulged.

“MR. FITZ-ADAM,

“I have lately made a discovery, which, for the good of mankind, I hope you will permit me to make public by the means of your paper.

“ I must inform you that, by the death of an aunt, I am lately come to the possession of a fine old manor-house in the country, which, on my going thither with my family to reside, I found so overrun with rats, that we were in danger of being devoured by them. You may be sure I left nothing untried to rid the house of them ; but they baffled the attempts of the rat-catchers, and continued to increase rather than diminish ; till, all at once, they vanished of their own accord, and never visited me afterwards. I was very much puzzled to account for this strange desertion ; and, it was not till near a fortnight had elapsed that I was let into the secret by a very uncommon and offensive smell, that proceeded from the door of an old lumber room. I immediately entered it, and saw a multitude of rats lying dead upon the floor. On examining into the cause, I cast my eyes upon a little drawer, which I remembered to have left open in my search after some papers of my aunt, and that it was filled with various sorts of quack medicines, such as pills, powders, ointments, and other things, for which she had the highest veneration. This drawer, which was quite full when I opened it, was now almost empty ; which sufficiently convinced me that I was indebted for my deliverance to these medicines ; but I was cautious of asserting it, till I had tried the experiment. For this purpose I procured of a rat-catcher half a dozen live rats ; to each of which I gave a different medicine. In half an hour and three minutes, two of my patients died in convulsions ; the rest were thrown into profuse sweats, vomiting and purging to so violent a degree that they survived their companions but three quarters of an hour, and then gave up the ghost in the same convulsions.

"I was highly pleased with this experiment, as it taught me the real use of these excellent medicines; and it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity of recommending them to all captains of ships, malsters, meal men, and farmers, and to those gentlemen and ladies who live in old houses.

"I am, Sir,

"Your constant reader and humble servant,

"G. H.

"P. S. By a second experiment, I have discovered that one of these pills, pounded or crumbled, will destroy twenty mice. They may also be of excellent use in thinning a poor family of young children, being thus pounded or bruised, and spread in small quantities upon their bread and butter."

I shall conclude this paper with a very ingenious little piece, which is just now communicated to me by my good friend, Mr. Dodsley, and which shows what an agreeable and elegant use a man of taste and memory may make of his reading. It was thrown together by a member of a society of gentlemen, who meet once a year to celebrate the birthday of Shakspeare, and is as follows:—

ON THE BIRTHDAY OF SHAKSPEARE.

A CENTO.—TAKEN FROM HIS WORKS.

*Naturâ ipsâ valere, et mentis viribus excitari, et quasi quodam
divino spiritu afflari.* CICERO.

—Peace to this meeting,
Joy and fair time, health and good wishes.
Now, worthy friends, the cause why we are met,
Is in celebration of the day that gave
Immortal Shakspeare to this favour'd isle;
The most replenished sweet work of nature,

Which from the prime creation e'er she framed.
O thou divinest nature! how thyself thou blazon'st
In this thy son! form'd in thy prodigality,
To hold thy mirror up, and give the time
Its very form and pressure! When he speaks
Each aged ear plays truant at his tales,
And younger hearings are quite ravished;
So voluble is his discourse—Gentle
As zephyr blowing underneath the violet,
Not wagging its sweet head—Yet as rough,
His noble blood enchain'd, as the rude wind,
That by the top doth take the mountain pine,
And make him stoop to the vale—'T is wonderful
That an invisible instinct should frame him
To loyalty, unlearn'd; honour, untaught;
Civility, not seen in other; knowledge
That wildly grows in him, but yields a crop
As if it had been sown. What a piece of work!
How noble in faculty! Infinite in reason!
A combination and a form indeed,
Where every god did seem to set his seal.
Heaven has him now—Yet let our idolatrous fancy
Still sanctify his relics; and this day
Stand aye distinguish'd in the calendar
To the last syllable of recorded time:
For if we take him but for all in all
We ne'er shall look upon his like again.

No. 180. THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1756.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ YOU have reading and experience enough to know, that some of the greatest ornaments and conveniences of life owe their rise to inconsiderable beginnings; and, on the contrary, that little abuses and mistakes, by continual repetitions and aggrava-

tions, have grown into calamities which have severely exercised, as well the wisdom as the patience of mankind. In this light it is hoped the following petition will be considered. It was not drawn up barely to amuse your readers for five or six minutes, but with a view to very important consequences that may possibly be derived from it. Your labours sufficiently intimate that you consider your species as one great family, of which you are a member, and, consequently, under an obligation to countenance every thing that has a tendency to its advancement. It is for that reason application is made to you.

“I am, Sir,

“Your constant reader and humble servant.”

‘THE HUMBLE PETITION OF ALL THE LETTERS IN
THE ALPHABET, EXCEPT E AND O.

‘SHOWETH,

‘That your petitioners cannot, without great violence to their modesty, insist upon any thing that may reflect honour upon themselves; but the necessity of the case will plead their excuse; and therefore they beg leave most humbly to represent, that in conjunction with E and O, they have been for many ages, in a great part of the world, the only support of the whole intercourse of human life. By them men have been enabled to converse when they met, and to communicate their thoughts to each other at any distance. By them the social virtues exist, are multiplied and improved, to a degree not easily conceived by those who, either from ignorance, or a too constant familiarity, are apt to contract a sort of contempt for objects of the greatest use.

‘The body which your petitioners almost entirely compose, is known to consist of but few individuals;

and the business they are employed in is infinite; yet no transaction has ever suffered from any defect in them. Under proper direction, they never fail to execute what is intended, though, in the course of their service, circumstances frequently occur of the nicest and most delicate nature. By their intervention contending princes dispute their claims of empire. Upon them depend divines, statesmen, lawyers, and physicians; all professions, all trades; and, with their assistance, the beggar asks his alms. An influence more extensive, more universal, is hardly to be imagined; so many and so great are the purposes answered by your petitioners; a society that does more honour to the species, than all others put together.

‘ But the utility and importance of your petitioners have, for their foundation, a perfect harmony and good understanding among themselves; inasmuch as the least dissension may prove of fatal consequence; for should any one of them withdraw his assistance from the rest, their activity, which qualifies them for all employments, would in a moment cease, and they must become, in the strictest sense of the words, dead letters.

‘ Nevertheless so it is, that certain persons, either through folly or perverseness, have opened a door to discord, an enemy ever upon the watch, and that must inevitably prevail, if a speedy and effectual stop be not put to a practice, which has, for many years, had its favourers in the greatest and most polite assembly of this metropolis. A thousand witnesses might be produced to prove, that at every *ridotto*, part of the company is seated at a round table, which has a hollow movable circle in the middle, with a declivity from the centre, and its circumference divided into little separate cavities or

cells, distinguished by the letters E and O, placed over them alternately ; the hollow circle is put in motion, and a small ivory ball thrown upon it in a contrary direction ; after several turns, the inclination of the surface carries the ball down towards the cavities prepared for its reception, in one of which, having rebounded several times, it at last rests, and the parties concerned in this interesting event succeed or fail, as they chance to have chosen, or not, the letter under which the ball happens to settle.

‘ Now, Sir, the grievance complained of by your petitioners is, that the game should be wholly and absolutely governed by E and O, and derive its name from those letters alone. All impartial judges will acknowledge the preference to be an undue one, since all your petitioners are equally qualified for the service, ready to undertake it, and have spirit enough to claim a share in the honour.

• There is indeed, and there must of necessity be, a precedence in the order of the alphabet ; but this has never yet been understood to denote any superior excellence ; and granting it did, the two associates in power cannot avail themselves of that circumstance, because all who know their letters, and are capable of counting not quite twenty, will find the former of them in the fifth, and the latter in the fourteenth place. Like other favourites, therefore, they have been advanced, not for their merit, but altogether from caprice.

‘ The disadvantages of this practice are evident to all. The few who are well established in reading, by a perpetual and close attention to E and O only, may entirely forget your petitioners, and, by that means, lose all the advantages of a learned education. As to the many, who have every thing to learn, the danger is, that not one of them will be prevailed on

to go a step beyond O, which must absolutely defeat those expectations which the public may have formed from the rising generation.

‘The remedy for these evils is however easy and certain ; it is only to have the letters over the cavities made to slide on and off, and to provide a complete alphabet of them ; then, beginning with A and B, let them govern for a certain time ; next C and D are to preside, and, in this manner, a regular rotation is to take place. The use of this contrivance must be obvious to everybody, as a thousand things might be taught in this way, which it would be hopeless to attempt in any other whatsoever.

‘Your petitioners, submitting the premises to your consideration, humbly pray such relief, as to your great wisdom shall seem meet.

‘ A. B.	P. Q.
C. D.	R. S.
F. G.	T. U.
H. I.	W. X.
K. L.	Y. Z.’
M. N.	

No. 181. THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1756.

It has been remarked by certain wise philosophers, that men are strangely apt to err in their notions of good and evil, virtue and vice. They tell us that we have no adequate idea of those words, but are continually mistaking and confounding them,

calling good evil, and evil good, virtue vice, and vice virtue. One of these philosophers has very lately discovered that the contentions, misfortunes, and miseries of mankind are wholly owing to government and laws, and that a state of anarchy and confusion, where the weak are at the mercy of the strong, and the simple of the cunning, is the only state of concord, security, and happiness.

Another of these philosophers, who seems rather inclined to new-model governments, than totally to subvert them, has proved, to the satisfaction of multitudes, that fraud, luxury, corruption, and all the catalogue of vices, as men are mistakenly pleased to call them, are the only means to make a community great, flourishing, and happy; and, on the contrary, that frugality, temperance, continence, and the like, which are vulgarly termed virtues, tend finally to its destruction.

For my own part, I was not philosopher enough in my youth to investigate these deep truths; and now I am old, I find myself so bigotted to former opinions, as not easily to perceive that rapes, murders, and adulteries are beneficial to society, or that a state of nature is better calculated for the preservation of property, or the ease, peace, and happiness of mankind, than government and laws. But lest it should be said of me, that, from the peevishness and obstinacy of age, I am shutting my eyes against the light, I will freely confess that I am lately become a convert to some other opinions, which I formerly held in equal disesteem. I had long accustomed myself to look on gaming as a vice; and as such I have frequently treated it in the course of these papers; but I am now fully convinced of my error, and that I ought to have considered it as a national virtue, and productive of more advantages to society

than any other whatsoever. That my readers may entertain the same opinion, I shall here present them with a letter which I have lately received from a very ingenious correspondent, whose reasoning upon this subject is too conclusive to be opposed.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ I hope you will not think it inconsistent with the manner in which you have proposed to conduct your paper, to lay before the public the complaints of your correspondents, relating to that part of the world you more immediately preside over; especially as you have declared your design to interpose, whenever the critical emergencies of your country shall require your assistance.

“ You, who are acquainted with public proceedings, must have taken notice of the additional taxes that have been laid upon cards and dice; by which it is justly apprehended that the profits arising from the honourable occupations dependent thereon will be greatly impeded. Whatever satisfaction gloomy and splenetic minds, always disposed to anticipate the ruin of the kingdom, may express, I assure you, I cannot help considering this affair with the most painful concern; and I doubt not my reasons will be equally convincing to you.

“ At a time when the perfidious enemies of our country have rendered all foreign trade precarious and uncertain, to what happier resources can we fly than the commerce of game? By what means is the circulation of money, the life and spirit of trade, more speedily promoted? What other business can boast of such large returns? and, with honour be it mentioned, what debts in any other kind of commerce are more punctually discharged? How

strongly do the various fluctuations of fortune inculcate fortitude, courage, resignation, and a noble contempt of death ! virtues for which the proficients in this science have been greatly renowned. What better method could be found out for humbling the grandeur, and diminishing the overgrown revenues of our nobility and gentry, than by blending their manners and fortunes with the lowest of their fellow-creatures ? Nor is it the least praise of this profession, that the fair sex are qualified to make a figure in it, and to exert those striking talents which we seem so solicitous to exclude from many of the arts of life. By a constant application to gaming, they gradually wear off the killing brightness of those eyes, and the overpowering splendour of those charms, which would otherwise be destructive to many thousands of mankind. Hence they are taught kindness and condescension, and rendered graciously accessible to the company and caresses of every adoring swain. I might observe, further, that while the merchant and tradesman are contracting a narrow avaricious turn of mind, a haughty contempt, and a supercilious air, the gallant spirits who have espoused this genteel commerce, acquire an engaging freedom of conversation, a boundless generosity of nature, and an inimitable politeness of manners.

“ If the political advantages of gaming are demanded of me, I answer, that it secures our money in the kingdom, and keeps it in perpetual circulation. Can there be a more convincing demonstration of the dangerous consequences of foreign trade, than that the riches of the kingdom are exhausted by it, and the national current wealth, according to the opinion of some wise calculators, reduced from forty millions to twelve ? not to mention the importation

of the various follies, fashions, and poisons, which expose, infatuate, and destroy so many of our deluded countrymen. Can any other argument be necessary to procure an unlimited indulgence to a commerce, from whence so many advantages spring, and which is so evidently conducive to the public good?

“If it should be objected that many persons of plentiful incomes are reduced to poverty by gaming, I should be glad to know what employments in life are totally exempted from misfortune, and how many bankrupts are recorded in our public chronicles, who, despairing to rise in the world by the vulgar method of trade, have had recourse to this genteel profession, and quickly retrieved their fortunes.

“It would be easy to mention many more circumstances in praise of so noble a commerce, if it was in the least necessary; I doubt not of the concurrence of all men of genius and spirit in these my sentiments; and I hope the legislature will henceforward look with favour on an art in which the politeness, the morals, the constitution, and the riches of this kingdom are so greatly concerned; and, instead of discouraging it with severe taxes, and heavy burdens, will contribute every thing to its advancement. To this end I cannot present you with a better proposal than, ‘that all those who can bring sufficient proof of their having lost from one thousand to one hundred thousand pounds, shall be maintained at the public expense, and rewarded for their patriotism, in sacrificing their fortune so disinterestedly for the good of their country.’

“If you shall please to communicate these thoughts to the public, and recommend them by some arguments of your own, I shall think you that friend of

the world you pretend to be, and may possibly give you some future advices, which may not be unworthy your notice.

“I am, Sir,

“Your sincere friend and hearty admirer,

“JACK LOVEBOX.”

No. 182. THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1756.

“A VERY facetious friend of mine was observing, the other day, that he could always discover, with great certainty, the shape, height, and complexion of any man’s wife in company, by calling for his toast. If he gives you a lean woman, depend upon it, says he, his wife is a fat one ; or, if he drinks his bumper to a beauty of fine height and complexion, you may safely conclude that the lady at home is little and swarthy, and so on ; for, continues he, I have ever found it to be true, that when a man has been married a full half year, he will be the constant admirer of all other women, in proportion as they differ from his own wife.

“I wish, with all my heart, there was no colour of truth in this remark ; but I am afraid that the wives of the generality of men, like their other possessions, are apt to pall a little upon their hands. Fine fortunes, fine houses, fine gardens, and fine equipages, bring but little enjoyment to their owners ; insomuch that we are every day breaking the tenth commandment, by coveting our neighbour’s house,

our neighbour's wife, or any thing that is our neighbour's.

Whence this perverseness of mankind arises, I will not take upon me to determine. My friend, who never thinks enough to perplex himself, lays the fault upon human nature. He asserts that men are, in every respect, just what they were intended to be, and that we have the same reason to be angry with a bear for not being a man, as with a man for having the imperfections of one.

That we are frail by nature is too certain a truth ; but, the comfort is, that He who made us so does not expect perfection from us, and will pardon errors that do not proceed from wilful corruption and obstinate disobedience.

There is a humorous fable of the ancients upon the general frailty of mankind, which, as I have never seen in English, I have ventured to modernize and translate for the entertainment of my readers.

‘ Jupiter, after he had seized the throne of Saturn, conquered the Titans, and made the universe his own, left the government of this lower world and the affairs of mankind to the inferior deities. Each had his separate votaries, and no one was to interfere in the department of another. Mars was captain-general of the soldiery of all nations, Neptune was lord high admiral, Bacchus presided over clubs and festivals, Mercury over trade, Apollo over wit and physic, Minerva over learning, Venus and the Graces over beauty, Juno over marriage, Diana over chastity, and so on.

‘ In the first ages of the world, the affairs of men seemed to be in a very flourishing condition ; but the face of things began gradually to change, till at last a general depravity prevailed over the face

of the whole earth. The gods, finding themselves unequal to the task imposed upon them, and angry with mankind, petitioned Jupiter to take the government of them into his own hands ; but he frowned at their request, commanding them to proceed as they had begun, and leave the consequences to himself. The deities, perplexed at their repulse, convened a council among themselves, in which it was agreed that they should draw up a second petition to Jupiter, that, for the better understanding the nature of mankind, they should have leave to pay a visit to the world, and to take upon them, for a time, the several natures of their votaries. Jupiter laughed, and consented to their petition, but, with this particular limitation, that they should be entirely divested of supernatural powers, and that, as they were to personate mortals, they should be subject to their frailties.

The deities consented to the will of Jupiter, and, having deliberated on the several parts they were to act, made their descent upon the earth. Mars bought himself a pair of colours in the Guards, and, being a gay, handsome young fellow, and a great favourite among the ladies, was quickly advanced to the command of a company. His equipage was the most splendid that could be imagined ; he dressed, danced, gamed, and swore to the utmost perfection ; he knocked down watchmen and constables, drew his sword upon chairmen and waiters, laughed at the parsons, bilked whores and hackney-coachmen, cheated tailors and lacemen, stormed towns at every tavern, and saluted at the head of his company with inimitable grace. But having, unfortunately, seduced the wife of his friend, and being called out on the occasion, he chose to decline fighting, and was broke for cowardice.

‘Neptune was a hardy rough tar, and got early the command of a sixty-gun ship. He attacked the trade of the enemy with great intrepidity, and took prizes of immense value. His prudence was equal to his courage; inasmuch as his ship was never known to suffer by the enemy’s shot, or a man to die on board her of a violent death. But, as Neptune was now no more than a man, and, therefore, liable to error, he had the misfortune to mistake his admiral’s signal to attack, for a signal to sheer off, and, happening to have no interest at court, was disabled from service, and sent to live upon his fortune.

‘Bacchus was a country squire, and a great sportsman; he got drunk every day, and debauched all the wives and daughters of his tenants and neighbours; till, being reduced by his extravagance, and driven to various shifts, he at last drew beer in a night-cellar to hackney-coachmen and street-walkers.

‘Mercury was a linen-draper in the city, and acquired a plentiful fortune by being three times a bankrupt; but, happening to be discovered in a fourth attempt, he was stripped of all his wealth, and very narrowly escaped hanging. He was afterwards captain of a gang of thieves, and, at last, recalled to heaven from the condemned hold in Newgate.

‘Apollo commenced mortal in the character of a physician, and so peopled the shades of Pluto with souls, that the boat of Charon became crazy by their weight. Jupiter grew incensed at his murders, and commanded him to begin the world again in a more innocent calling. Apollo obeyed, and became a wit. He composed loose sonnets and plays; he libelled the good, flattered the bad, blasphemed

the gods, and was patronized by the great; but unhappily, standing in need of their assistance, they withdrew their favours, and left him to starve in a garret on the bounty of the booksellers.

‘Minerva was a lady of fine parts and learning, but a great slattern. She never stuck a pin in her clothes, nor changed them till they wore out. Her linen was stained with ink, her hair uncombed, her petticoats falling off, her stockings full of holes, and her feet slipshod. She talked in syllogisms, wrote in heroics, and married her footman.

‘Venus, who while a goddess, had always a hankering after mortal flesh and blood, was highly pleased with this descent upon earth. She assumed the form of a beautiful girl of fourteen, took lodgings in Covent Garden, and dealt out her favours liberally to all visitors. Her state of mortality was so suited to her inclinations, that heaven and the goddesses were never thought of, till the loss of her nose made her sigh for immortality.

‘Diana was a great prude all day, but had her Endymions by moonlight. It is reported of her, that she was eleven times brought to bed, without being once able to give the least probable guess at the father of the child.

‘Of Juno it is only said, that she scolded seven husbands to death; and of the Graces, that they were exceeding neat girls till they married, and sluts afterwards.

‘Having stayed the limited time upon earth, they were all summoned to heaven in their human forms and habits, to make their appearance before the throne of Jupiter. Mars and Neptune made a tolerable figure, but looked a little shy. Bacchus had a blue apron on, and a string of pewter pots thrown across his shoulder. Mercury appeared fettered and

handcuffed; he had a woollen cap upon his head, a nosegay in his hand, and a halter about his neck. Apollo was full-drest in a suit of rusty black, a tie-wig, a silver-hilted sword, roll-up stockings, deep ruffles, but no shirt; his features were begrimed with snuff, and his mouth crammed with tobacco. As Minerva approached to make her courtesy, Jupiter held his nose, and beckoned her to keep aloof, telling her that, for the future, he would have no learned ladies upon earth. Venus held her fan before her face, till Jupiter commanded her to uncover. He then inquired after her nose, and asked if the gin she had drank that morning was right Holland's. Diana complained much of a dropsy; upon which Jupiter laughed, and promised to send Lucina to cure her; adding, that he hoped she had had good times. Juno looked angry at not being first taken notice of, which, upon Jupiter's observing, he gave her a gracious nod, and assured her that every one of her husbands was quiet in Elysium. The Graces would have apologized for their dishabille, but Jupiter prevented them, and told them, with a smile, that he would have no marriages in heaven. He then restored them all to their divinities, and, after ridiculing and rebuking them for their murmurings and curiosity, dismissed them to their several charges, telling them that they were now enabled to make allowances for the frailties and imperfections of human nature, having experienced, in their own persons, that he had peopled the world with men, and not gods.'

No. 183. THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1756.

IT was with great satisfaction that I attended to the declaration of war against France, having, for above a twelvemonth past, been sensibly hurt in my own private property by the people of that nation. Yet injured, as I was, I concealed my resentment while there was the least expectation of peace, that it might not be said of me I had contributed, by any complaints of my own, to the involving my country in a hazardous and expensive war.

Everybody knows, that till within these two years, or thereabouts, it was a general fashion for the ladies to wear hair upon their heads; and I had piqued myself not a little on the thoughts that these my papers had been of considerable service towards curling the said hair. I had, indeed, long ago discovered that very few ladies of condition could spare time and attention enough from the various avocations of dress, visiting, assemblies, plays, operas, Ranelagh and Vauxhall, to read over a paper that contained no less than six pages in folio; but as the demand for *The World* was still very considerable, I contented myself with knowing that I was every week adorning their heads, though I could not be permitted to improve their understandings; and it was a particular pleasure to me, in all public assemblies, to think that the finest faces there were indebted to the goodness of my paper for setting them off. So long as the fashion of hair continued, and, to say the truth, I never so much as dreamed that

it was so soon to change, I depended on the custom of the fair and polite; but, by the instigation of French hair-cutters, whom the ministers of their monarque have sent to this metropolis in pure spite to me, the ladies have been prevailed on to cut their hair close to their temples, to the great diminution of the sale of these papers.

It was formerly a very agreeable amusement to me to look in at Mr. Dodsley's on a Thursday morning, and observe the great demand for these my lucubrations; but though the same demand continues among the men, I have frequently the mortification of hearing a smart footman delivering a message in the shop, 'that his lady desires Mr. Dodsley will send her in no more Worlds, for that she has cut off her hair, and shall have no occasion for them any longer.'

Nobody will, I believe, make the least doubt that my principal view in this work was to amend the morals and improve the understandings of my fellow-subjects; but I will honestly confess, that ever since the commencement of it, I have entertained some distant hopes of laying up a fortune sufficient to support me in my old age; and, as money is at so low an interest, I intended making a small purchase in some retired and pleasant part of England, that I might have devoted my labours to the cultivation of land, after having weeded men's minds of whatever choked the growth of virtue and good manners. This I do not yet despair of effecting, as I am not without hopes that, while we are at open war with France, the ladies will conceive such a dislike to the fashions of their enemies, as to let their hair grow again. If this cannot speedily be brought about, I must be forced to apply to the ministers for some lucrative employment, in return for that

indulgence and complaisance which I have at all times shown them. It is impossible for me to conceive that my merits have been overlooked, though they have been hitherto unrewarded ; and I make no kind of doubt that I need only present myself at their levees, to be asked what post I would choose. They do not want to be assured that I am as willing as able to assist them in all emergencies ; or, which is still better, to vindicate their conduct against all opposers, to stifle clamours in their birth, to convert fears to hopes, complaints to approbation, and faction to concord.

But as I do not at present recollect any particular post of honour and profit that would better suit me than another, and knowing that the abusers of an administration are first to be provided for, I am willing to accept of a handsome sum of money, till something else may be done ; or if a seat in parliament with a proper qualification, be thought necessary for me, I entirely acquiesce, as my eloquence in the house must be of signal service in all critical conjunctures. It would also be perfectly agreeable to me, if the government were to take off weekly twenty or thirty thousand of my papers, and circulate them among their friends ; or if they object to such an expense, and should discover no inclination to oblige me in any of the particulars above mentioned, I humbly entreat, that in lieu of the depredations made upon me by the French hair-cutters, and in consideration of my firm attachment to his Majesty's family and government, orders be immediately issued from the lord steward's office, the board of green-cloth, or elsewhere, that henceforward all the tarts, pies, pastry, and confectionery of any kind whatsoever, appertaining to his Majesty's household, be constantly baked upon these papers. This would

be making me sufficient amends, and greatly encourage me to continue this useful work, till a perfect library might be made of it, which otherwise must have an end before an hundred volumes can be completed.

That the ministry may entertain just notions of the efficacy of my good work, I shall here present them with some few of those offers, which are almost daily made by private persons.

A lady who has lately opened a new bagnio in Covent Garden, assures me in a letter, that if I will do her the favour to recommend her in *The World*, I shall not only have the run of her house, but every one of her young ladies shall be obliged to take in my paper as long as it lasts. A grocer in the Strand has sent me a pound of his best tea, and promises to wrap up every ounce he sells as also all his sugars and spices in these papers, if I will honour him so far as to make mention of him in any one of them. He adds, in a postscript, that his wife and five daughters, who do a great deal of work, make all their thread-papers of *Worlds*.

But a more material offer still, and which I have therefore reserved for the last, is contained in the following letter:—

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ ESTEEMED FRIEND,

“ This is to acquaint thee that we are makers of pins on the bridge called London Bridge, and that we have each of us given a considerable portion of money for the good-will of the habitations wherein we make abode; but by an act of the legislature lately passed, the said habitations are speedily to be pulled down, and their dwellers to be forced to

remove to other abodes. If thou art in the least acquainted with traffic, thou canst not be ignorant of the benefits that accrue from an old-established shop, in a street where the principal dealers in any particular commodity are known to dwell; inasmuch as when thou wantest a silken garment for thy wife, thou wouldst repair to the habitations of Round-court or Ludgate-hill; or if thy linen was rent, thou wouldst doubtless resort to Cheapside or Cornhill; in like manner, if thy helpmate or thy maidens wanted pins, thou wouldst not fail, if thou wert wise, to take thy walk to London Bridge. But by the act above named, thy friends are exiled from their dwellings, and compel to sojourn in a strange street, where even their names are unknown. We therefore request it of thee, if the rulers of the land behold thee with regard, that thou wilt apply thyself speedily to obtain a repeal of this act; wherein if thou succeedest, we will buy up thy weekly labours in reams, and stick all our pins therein, so that thy name shall be known far and wide, and thy days prosperous in the land.

“If thou art a well-wisher to thyself, thou wilt use thy best endeavours for the service of

“Thy friends,

“EPIRAIM MINIKIN,

“MALACHY SHORTWHITE,

“OBADIAH MIDLING,

“HEZEKIAH LONGPIN,” &c., &c.

After duly deliberating upon this proposal, I am inclined to trouble the government no further at present, than to request the repeal of this act, which, if they are so kind as to grant me, my papers will again find their way to the dressing-rooms of the ladies, in spite of the intrigues of France, and her emissaries, the hair-cutters.

No. 184. THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1756.

I WAS always particularly pleased with that scene in the first part of *Henry the Fourth*, where the humorous Sir John Falstaff, after upbraiding the prince with being the corrupter of his morals, and resolving on amendment, forms a very reasonable wish 'to know where a commodity of good names may be bought.' It happens indeed, a little unfortunately, that he immediately relapses into his old courses, and enters into a scheme for a robbery that night, which he endeavours to justify, by calling it his trade: 'Why, Hal,' says he, ''t is my vocation, Hal; 't is no sin for man to labour in his vocation.'

As often as this passage has occurred to me, I could not help thinking that if we were to look narrowly into the conduct of mankind, we should find the fat knight's excuse to have a more general influence than is commonly imagined. It should seem as if there were certain degrees of dishonesty, which were allowable, and that most occupations have an acknowledged latitude in one or more particulars, where men may be rogues with impunity, and almost without blame.

It will be no difficult task to illustrate the truth of this observation, by scrutinizing into the conduct of men of all ranks, orders, and professions. This shall be the subject of to-day's paper; and I shall begin where it is always good-manners to begin, with my betters and superiors.

The tyrant, who to gratify his ambition, depopulates whole nations, and sacrifices the lives of millions of his subjects to his insatiable desire of conquest, is a glorious prince; destruction is his trade, and he is only labouring in his vocation.

The statesman, who spreads corruption over a country, and enslaves the people to enrich himself, or aggrandize his master, is an able minister; oppression is his calling, and it is no sin in him to labour in his vocation.

The patriot, who opposes the measures of the statesman; who rails at corruption in the House, and bawls till morning for his poor bleeding country, may, if admitted to a post, adopt the principles he abhorred, and pursue the measures he condemned; such a one is a trader in power, and only labouring in his vocation.

The condescending patron, who, fond of followers and dependants, deals out his smiles to all about him, and buys flattery with promises; who shakes the needy wit by the hand, and assures him of his protection one hour, and forgets that he has ever seen him the next, is a great man; deceit is his vocation.

The man in office, whose perquisites are wrung from the poor pittance of the miserable, and who enriches himself by pillaging the widow and the orphan, receives no more than his accustomed dues, and is only labouring in his vocation.

The divine, who subscribes to articles that he does not believe; who neglects practice for profession, and God for his Grace; who bribes a mistress, or sacrifices a sister for preferment; who preaches faith without works, and damns all who differ from him, may be an orthodox divine, and only labouring in his vocation.

The lawyer, who makes truth falsehood, and falsehood truth ; who pleads the cause of the oppressor against the innocent, and brings ruin upon the wretched, is a man of eminence in the world, and the companion of honest men ; lying is his trade, and he is only labouring in his vocation.

The physician, who visits you three times a day in a case that he knows to be incurable ; who denies his assistance to the poor, and writes more for the apothecary than the patient, is an honest physician, and only labouring in his vocation.

The fine lady of fashion, who piques herself upon her virtue, perhaps a little too much ; who attends the sermon every Sunday, and prayers every weekday ; and who, if she slanders her best friends, does it only to reform them, may innocently indulge herself in a little cheating at cards ; she has made it her vocation.

The tradesman, who assures you upon his honest word that he will deal justly with you ; yet sells you his worst commodities at the highest price, and exults at overreaching you, is a good man, and only labouring in his vocation.

The infidel, who, fond of an evil fame, would rob you of a religion that inculcates virtue, and insures happiness as its reward ; who laughs at an hereafter, and takes from you the only expectation that can make life endurable, is a dealer in truth, and only labouring in his vocation.

The author, who, to insure a sale to his works, throws out his slander against the good, and poisons the young and virtuous by tales of wantonness and indecency, is a writer of spirit, and only labouring in his vocation.

To take characters in the gross ; the gamester, who cheats you at play ; the man of pleasure, who

corrupts the chastity of your wife ; the friend, who tricks you in a horse ; the steward, who defrauds you in his accounts ; the butler who robs you of your wine ; the footman, who steals your liuen ; the housekeeper, who overcharges you in her bills ; the gardener, who sends your fruit to market ; the groom, who starves your horses to put their allowance in his pocket ; in short, the whole train of servants, who impose upon you in the several articles intrusted to their care, are only receiving their lawful perquisites, and labouring in their vocations.

I know but of one set of men who ought commonly to be excepted in this general charge ; and those are the projectors. The schemes of all such gentlemen are usually too romantic to impose upon the credulity of the world ; and, not being able to plunder their employers, they are labouring in their vocations to cheat only themselves.

I would not be misunderstood upon this occasion, as if I meant to advise all people to be honest, and to do as they would be done by in their several vocations ; far be it from me to intend any such thing ; I am as well assured as they are, that it would not answer their purposes. The tyrant would have no glory without conquests ; his ministers no followers without bribes ; the patriot no place without opposition ; the patron no flatterers without promising ; the man in office no perquisites without fraud ; the divine no pluralities without time-serving ; the lawyer no clients without lying ; the physician no practice without apothecaries ; the tradesman no country-house without exaeting ; the fine lady no routs without cheating ; the infidel no fame without proselytes ; and the author no dinner without slander and wantonness ; the gamester would be undone ; the man of pleasure inac-

tive ; the gentleman-jockey would sell his horse at half-price ; and the steward, the butler, the footman, the housekeeper, the gardener, the groom, and the whole train of servants lose their necessary perquisites.

The old maxim, that ‘honesty is the best policy,’ has been long ago exploded ; but I am firmly of opinion that the appearance of it might, if well put on, promote a man’s interest, though the reality must destroy it. I would therefore recommend it to persons in all vocations, if it be but by way of trial, and for the novelty of the thing, to put on now and then the appearance of a little honesty. Most men have a natural dislike to be cheated with their eyes open ; and though it is the fashion of the times to wear no concealment, yet, to deceive behind the mask of integrity, has been deemed the most effectual method. To further this end, the appearance of a small portion of religion would not be amiss ; but I would by no means have this matter overdone, as it commonly is. Going to prayers every day, or singing psalms on a Sunday in a room next the street, may look a little suspicious, and set the neighbours upon the watch ; nor would I advise that a tradesman should stand at the shop-door with a prayer-book in his hand, or that a lawyer should carry the *Whole Duty of Man* in his bag to Westminster-hall, and read it in court as often as he sits down ; there are other methods that may answer the purpose of cheating much better. A yea and nay conversation, interrupted with a few sighs and groans for the iniquities of the wicked, loud responses at church, and long graces at meals, with here and there a godly book lying in the window, or in places most in sight, will be of singular utility ; and further than this I would by no means advise.

To all those gentlemen and ladies who follow no vocations, and who have therefore no immediate interest in cheating. I would recommend the practice of honesty before the appearance of it. As such persons stand in no need of a cloak, I shall say nothing to them of religion, only that the reality of it might be useful to them in afflictions; or, if ever they should take it into their heads that they must one day die, it might possibly alleviate the bitterness of so uncommon a thought. To do as they would be done by, would, in all probability, render them happier in themselves, and lead them to the enjoyment of new pleasures in the happiness of others.

No. 185. THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1756.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ MY case is a little singular, and therefore I hope you will let it appear in your paper. I should scarcely have attempted to make such a request, had not I very strictly looked over all the works of your predecessors, the *Tatlers*, *Spectators*, and *Guardians*, without a possibility of finding a parallel to my unhappy situation.

“ I am not henpecked; I am not grimalkined; I have no Mrs. Freeman, with her Italian airs; but I have a wife more troublesome than all three, by a certain ridiculous and unnecessary devotion that she

pays to her father, amounting almost to idolatry. When I first married her, from that specious kind of weakness which meets with encouragement and applause, only because it is called good-nature, I permitted her to do whatever she pleased; but, when I thought it requisite to pull in the rein, I found that her having the bit in her teeth, rendered the strength of my curb of no manner of use to me. Whenever I attempted to draw her in a little, she tossed up her head, snorted, pranced, and gave herself such airs, that, unless I let her carry me where she pleased, my limbs, if not my life, were in danger. The love of power is inherent in the disposition of womankind; and I do not pretend that her vapours, hysterics, low spirits, or whatever else the learned are pleased to call them, are not equalled by thousands of married women, in these melancholy kingdoms; but the father, the father is the point which distinguishes me from the rest of my brethren.

“ This old fellow is of a most capricious, unequal temper, and, like the satyr in the fable, blows hot and cold in the same breath. Sometimes he is very fond of me and my friends, and at other times he will not suffer us to look at him. In whatever mood the old gentleman thinks fit to appear, in the same mood madam, his daughter, dispenses her pouts and frowns, or her smiles and good-humour. Whatever shape old Proteus puts on, Cabera, his daughter, puts on the same. I call him Proteus, because, though I have known him many years, I have never known him a week together in the same form. He is vapourish, so is his daughter; he is a quack, so is his daughter; one day he is an economist, even to the greatest degree of avarice; the daughter also has her days of frugality and improper thrift. Sometimes he is profuse, and a violent squanderer; after

these fits my purse is sure to suffer most cruelly. Sometimes he is proud, sometimes he is humble; his daughter follows him closely in each of the two extremes. In short, Sir, both father and daughter practise more changes than Harlequin in the Emperor of the Moon. Judge, then, what figure a husband must make, who is indispensably obliged to conform with all these metamorphoses.

“ Last summer, though a cold one, Proteus took it into his head to dine in the cellar; and, as soon as we arrived at my country-house, our cellar also was immediately announced to be our eating parlour. My neighbours tried the experiment once, in hopes, perhaps, of being made fuddled, contrary to my usual custom; but that not being the case, they never offered to return again; no, not even the curate of the parish, who declared he would drink bumpers in my cellar as long as I pleased, but he could not eat there and sip thimble-fulls, though he were sure to dine every day on a pasty, or a haunch of venison. So that my wife and I, for three months together, dined like King Pharaoh, amidst frogs and darkness; nor had we any other companions than the reptiles that crawled out of the walls, imagining their territories invaded. But my wife endured every inconveniency, with amazing patience, because she had heard her father say, that this was the best method to drink iced liquors, without being at the expense of an ice-house.

“ Last winter, I was still put to greater hardships. Proteus, who sometime ago travelled abroad, neither for health nor improvement, but merely in search of that philosopher's stone called Taste, declared that in Italy no nobleman's house had a chimney in any room except the kitchen; and he added, that as it was an example which he resolved

to follow, he hoped it might be so relishable to his friends, that they would cut off that excessive dear article of firing, and expend their coal-money in buildings, statues, or lakes. The word was no sooner given, than my wife bricked up every chimney, except the kitchen chimney, in my house ; and, in January, though we were permitted to have little earthen stoves in our chambers, the cold was so intense, that my little boy Tommy died of the whooping-cough ; and 'I myself caught an ague, which lasted four months, and brought upon me an apothecary's bill, amounting to ninety pounds for drugs, which were indeed much fuller of taste than I desired.

"The furniture of my house, and the shape of my gardens, have been changed at least ten times over ; yet if you were to judge, Mr. Fitz-Adam, from the constant conversation of my wife and her father, you would pronounce them the best economists in Europe ; and so they are, in small beer, oil, and vinegar.

"Though I always avoid excess of drinking when at home, my father-in-law, since my marriage, having been remarkably sober, yet it is my misfortune, and I confess it as a fault, to go now and then to the tavern, and there to exceed the strict limits of sobriety. It is impossible, among jovial companions, not to indulge a vein of gayety ; the effect of which is, that at night I am apt to stagger towards the nuptial bed a little too heavily loaded with liquor. The night is snored away in oblivion ; but oh ! when the morning approaches, and I awake and open my eyes, what a face of anger do I behold ! and what dreadful peals of conjugal thunder do I hear ! Those peals commonly end with a louder clap than ordinary, in words to this purpose : ' Ah !

Mr. Tamedeer, Mr. Tamedeer, is this the reward for all my love and kindness? Have I quitted my dear father for the embraces of a sot? When was that good old man ever seen disguised in liquor?' To this I might reply, if I dared to make an answer, that indeed he is so often disguised out of liquor, he ought never to be disguised in it; and I might also add, that he is most injuriously slandered, if, some five-and-twenty years since, he did not drink, smoke, and go through the *et cætera*, as well as the best of us.

"If I offend or rebel in any one point, and, indeed, I offend and rebel in very few, my wife immediately applies to my father-in-law, and I am ordered to alter my conduct, and to submit properly to judgments far superior to my own. Thus is my case, my wife's virtue always excepted, far more deplorable than Barnaby Rudge's in the play; nor have I the comfort appendant to Sir John Enville, Knt., in being married to a woman of quality. That circumstance, at least, might have proved an ingredient to satisfy my pride.

"This uneasy situation, which I have described with exact truth, has occasioned me to ruminate continually upon some method of relief. None occurs to me, except a formal divorce. You will ask what cause can be alleged? since there is not the least shadow of proof either of adultery, ill-usage, or any other matrimonial misdemeanor. True. But cannot I prove a prior marriage? Was not she married to her father, to all outward appearance, long before she went with me to the altar? Does not that marriage evidently continue, without any other breach, than having a second husband in points where the first husband does not care to meddle? Is she not more obedient to her first

husband than her second? Has she fulfilled, as she ought, her vow of matrimony to me? Whom does she obey? not me, but her father. Whom does she honour? not me, but her father. May not I hope, therefore, to be relieved, in any judicial or ecclesiastical court in England?

“Your opinion fully stated upon this case would encourage me to go on, or discourage me from proceeding. If I cannot be relieved by law or equity, I will try and summon up courage to fight my father-in-law. I know he is a coward, but then, I am under apprehensions, that the jade has discovered to him that I am a greater coward than himself. At all events, Mr. Fitz-Adam, let me have your advice, because I am

“Your constant reader, and admirer,

“THOMAS TAMEDEER.”

No. 186. THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1756.

“TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“SIR,

“I AM the same clergyman who troubled you with an account of his misfortunes in your paper, No. 31, and am indebted to your kind publication of that letter for the ease and happiness which, with only one single interruption, I have enjoyed ever since. My uncommon, and I hope I may say, unmerited distresses, recommended me to the notice of a noble lord, who called to see me at my lodgings, brought

me home to his lordship's own house, and honoured me so far as to make me his domestic chaplain. His lordship's regard for me was so truly sincere, that he married me soon after to my lady's woman, a young person of admirable beauty and virtue, and a great favourite of my lord, because, as his lordship used often to tell me, she was a clergyman's daughter, and, for what reason he knew not, extremely hated by his lady. But my good fortune did not end here ; his lordship, whose nature it is never to be tired with doing good, was so very obliging as to take us a little house, ready-furnished, in a retired and pleasant part of the town, paying the rent of it himself, and making us considerable presents from time to time ; he was also so very condescending as to spend two or three evenings in a week with us, and frequently to take my wife with him into the chariot, for an afternoon's airing, as she had the misfortune, soon after our marriage, of labouring under an ill state of health, which, as we all feared, would terminate in a dropsy.

"His lordship was still kinder to me in other affairs, insomuch that in less than two months after our marriage, he sent me into the west, with thirty guineas in my pocket, to supply the place of a worthy clergyman, whom my lord had sent for to town upon particular business ; and because the ill health of my wife required a little country air, his lordship proposed taking lodgings for her at Knightsbridge during my absence, where she was daily to be attended by his own physician.

"At the end of six weeks, his lordship was pleased to recall me to town, where I had the inexpressible satisfaction of finding my wife returned to her house perfectly cured of her disorder, with only a little paleness remaining from the violent remedies

prescribed to her by her physician. I had the additional happiness of finding his lordship with my wife, waiting my return, and to be honoured with his thanks for the faithful discharge of my trust, together with the promise of the very first living that should fall within his gift.

“I mention these things, Sir, to the honour of my noble benefactor, who ever since my marriage, which is now three years ago, has been lavishing his favours upon me; who has been so very condescending to stand godfather in person to my two children, and to take every opportunity of making me happy by his visits. But I am not entering into a particular detail of the pleasures I enjoy; I have another motive for troubling you with this letter.

“His lordship, the beginning of this month, was pleased, amongst the many instances of his goodness to procure for me a chaplainship in one of the regiments now in Scotland; and, as my attendance was immediately necessary, and my wife too far gone with child to think of going with me; as soon as I had prepared every thing for my journey, I sent an advertisement to the *Daily Advertiser* in the following words: —

“‘Wanted, an agreeable companion in a post-chaise to Edinburgh. Inquire for the reverend W. B. at the Green Park coffee-house, Piccadilly. Note, the utmost expedition will be necessary.’

“The next morning, as I was reading a newspaper in the coffee-room, I heard a young gentleman, of a very modest and decent appearance, inquiring at the bar for the reverend Mr. W. B. I told him that I was the person, and calling for a couple of dishes of coffee, we sat down together, and entered upon the subject of the advertisement. He assured me, that if his friends did not flatter

him, he was a very agreeable companion ; that he had business of consequence to transact at Edinburgh ; that he was particularly pleased to find by the advertisement that I was a clergyman, having a great veneration for gentlemen of that function ; that he had entertained thoughts of becoming one himself, was a near relation of the Bishop of ***, and though young as he appeared, he was never so happy as when engaged in serious conversation with a worthy divine. He was pleased to add, that he saw something in my appearance which entitled me to that character, and that he did not doubt of being greatly edified during so long a journey. Many civilities passed on my side in return ; and in the end it was agreed that we should set out that very evening at six o'clock. He was punctual to his appointment, with a servant on horseback, leading a handsome gelding for his master, who with two young gentlemen, his friends, were waiting for me at the inn. I could not help observing, while the chaise was getting ready, that these young gentlemen were taking a good deal of pains to stifle a laugh, which, on our stepping into the carriage, they were no longer able to contain ; but I made no remarks upon their behaviour, and we set out upon our journey.

“ We reached Ware that night, without any thing happening worthy of remark, except that we were stopt upon the road by two young gentlemen on horseback, and interrupted in a very serious conversation, by their saluting my companion with, ‘ Z—ds, Jack ! what playing the saint, and travelling to heaven with a parson ! ’ My fellow traveller gave them a look of contempt, and, after assuring them that he had not the honour of knowing them, and pulling up the glass, ordered the postilion to drive on.

“Our evening at Ware was spent in remarks on the dissoluteness of the times, and the indecent liberties that wild and profligate young fellows were everywhere taking with the clergy. After much serious discourse, and moderate refreshment, we retired to rest. I slept longer than usual in the morning, and no sooner was I awake than I discovered, with equal confusion and surprise, that I was in bed with a woman, who, as I attempted to get up, threw her arms about my neck, and compelled me to lie down. The struggle and the noise I made upon this occasion, together with the screams of the woman, who still held me fast, alarmed the whole inn, and drew a crowd of spectators into the room, headed by my companion, and followed by a soldier, who called himself the husband of the woman, swearing that he would have my heart’s blood, for corrupting the chastity of his wife. I pleaded my innocence to an unbelieving audience, while the woman accused me of having forced her against her will; pretending that it was her misfortune overnight to be a little in liquor, and that she had mistaken the room I lay in for her own.

“To dwell no longer than is needful upon this disgraceful affair, I was, in the end, compelled to give a guinea to the soldier, and afterwards to submit, with patience, to the insults of a mob, who surrounded the inn at our entrance into the postchaise, and followed it with hootings to the very extremity of the town.

“From the passive behaviour of my companion at the inn, and the demure looks that he now put on, I began to harbour a suspicion of him not greatly to his advantage; and while I was deliberating in what manner to address him, an accident happened, which at once threw him off his guard, and discov-

ered to me, that instead of an agreeable companion, I was travelling with a fiend. This accident was the sudden and violent overturning of the postchaise; upon which occasion, though neither of us was hurt, he discharged such a volley of curses on the postilion, as made me tremble to hear him. I endeavoured to pacify him by the gentlest admonitions, which, instead of calming his anger, turned it all upon myself; and, amidst a thousand oaths and imprecations, he vowed revenge upon my head, telling me that he hated a parson as he hated old Nic; that he had bribed the soldier's whore to go to bed to me at the inn, and that he came out upon no other business than to play the devil with me all the way. I stood aghast at what I heard, and refused getting into the chaise again; upon which a struggle ensued, and blows passed between us, till, by the assistance of his servant, and the knavery of the postilion, whom he gained over to his side with a whole handful of silver, I was thrust into the chaise, and compelled to go on.

" We had scarcely travelled a mile before we overtook a couple of gypsies upon the road; one an old woman, the other a girl. They were all over rags and filth, and so intoxicated with liquor, that they reeled at every step. My companion called to the postilion to stop, and, after questioning these wretches about the way they were going, got out of the chaise, and told me that he could not, in charity, sit lolling at his ease, while two of the tender sex were walking barefoot on the road; and that, if I had no weighty objections, he would make the old lady an offer of his seat; and miss, as he was pleased to call her, might, with great conveniency, sit upon my knee. It was in vain for me to expostulate, or to attempt leaping out after him; his servant held me fast by

the arm, while the master, with great gravity and ceremony, handed the creatures into the chaise, and then mounting his horse, rode close by its side, talking obscenity to the wretches, and instructing them to behave to me in a manner not to be endured nor described.

“In this manner we passed through the villages, and entered Royston; the postilion being ordered to walk his horses gently to the inn, that we might be followed by a mob, whom my companion called to at every turning to smoke the parson and his doxies.

“I stept from the chaise amidst the hallooing of the rabble, and ran into a room, the door of which I locked. Here I determined to remain, or to fly to the magistrate for protection, had not my tormentor made his appearance at the window, telling me that as the joke was now at an end, and as he believed I had had enough of an agreeable companion, he had altered his intention of visiting Scotland, and should return to town that morning. I thanked him for the favour, but kept close to my room, till I saw him, with his servant, ride out of the inn, and take the road to London. I then ordered some refreshment to be brought me, and a postchaise to be in readiness; but how great was my astonishment, when feeling for my purse, which contained forty guineas at my setting out, I found that my pockets had been rifled, and that I had not so much as a brass farthing left me!

“As it was no doubt with me that the gypsies had robbed me, I made immediate inquiry after them, but learnt that they had disappeared on our arrival at the inn; and though the most diligent search was made for them, they were nowhere to be found.

“It was now impossible for me to proceed; I

therefore determined to remain where I was, till I could receive a fresh supply from my wife, to whom I dispatched a messenger with a letter, setting forth at large all the cruelties I had met with.

“When the messenger was gone, it occurred to me that, however ill my companion had used me, he could not be base enough to concert this robbery with the gypsies, and therefore might be inclined to make up my loss, upon knowing that I had sustained it. For this reason I determined once more to transmit my complaints to the *World*; that if the young gentleman has any one principle of honour remaining, he may send to Mr. Dodsley’s the sum I have been defrauded of. My demand upon him is for seven-and-thirty guineas, which, unless he pays within six days after the publication of this letter, I will forthwith print his name in the newspapers, and proclaim to the public the injuries he has done me.

“I have another reason for giving you this trouble, which is, to caution all gentlemen for the future against advertising in the papers for an agreeable companion in a postchaise; as it consoles me not a little, that I am enabled to make other people wise, even by my own misfortunes.

“I am, Sir,

“Your obliged

“and most faithful servant,

“W. B.”

“George Inn, at Royston, July 16, 1756.”

No. 187. THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1756.

“TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“SIR,

“AMONG all the grievances that your correspondents have from time to time laid before you, I have met with no one situation that bears any likeness to my own, or that deserves your compassion and advice half so much. I am the brother of four sisters, am the eldest of my family, a freeman of the city of London, and by trade a shoemaker. My father enjoyed a small place at court, which I believe, one year with another, brought him in about a hundred and fifty pounds. My mother was descended from the third or fourth cousin of an attainted Scotch peer, was a lady's woman when my father married her, and brought with her a very large portion of pride, virtue, and fine breeding. My father, who before his marriage had held up his head very high as a courtier, was now of greater consequence than ever, in the thought that, by this happy match, he had allied himself to nobility. My mother, indeed, had one great mortification to surmount, which was that she had not only contaminated her blood by marrying a plebeian, who was formerly a broken tallow-chandler in the city, but had changed her illustrious maiden name for the coarse and vulgar appellation of Mrs. Laycock. She comforted herself, however, on the first appearance of her pregnancy, that so odious a surname should be qualified in her children with the genteelest and most elegant Chris-

tian names that history or romance could possibly supply. My father approved the thought; and no sooner was I a fortnight old than I was christened, with great pomp and grandeur, by the name of Ptolemy. My eldest sister, who came into the world a year after, was called Wilhelmina Charlotta, the second Penthesilea, the third Telethusa, and the fourth Honoria. There was also a second son, who died within the month, christened Agamemnon.

“We were all of us trained up to regard these names as marks of superiority over other children, and such as would, one time or other, most certainly make our fortunes. If Master Ptolemy was naughty, he was not chid as a vulgar child, but admonished with all the gentleness and forbearance due to so illustrious a name. If Miss Wilhelmina Charlotta, or her sisters Miss Penthesilea, Miss Telethusa, or Miss Honoria forgot to hold up their heads, or were caught at romps with the boys, they were put in mind of their names, and instructed to act up to them. Our dresses were, if possible, as fantastic as our names, and the formality of our behaviour was of a piece with both. And, though we were the plainest children in the world, and had not the least probable chance of receiving a single shilling to our portions, we were trained up to pride and idleness, and to turn up our noses at all the Dicks, Toms, and Harries, the Sukeys and Pollies that were our superiors in the neighbourhood.

“The necessary expenses to support all this pride and folly were more than could be spared from the narrow income of my father; and Master Ptolemy, who was now eleven years old, must have been as totally uneducated as the misses his sisters, if my father's brother, who was a reputable shoemaker in the city, had not taken me into his care, and sent

me to St. Paul's school at his own expense. To this accident of my life, I owe my escape from ruin. I was called King Ptolemy by all the boys, and so laughed at for my importance, that I soon grew ashamed of my name; and, at the end of three years, when my mother thought it high time for me to return to court, I chose to accept of an offer my uncle had made me of becoming his apprentice, and entering into partnership with him when my time was expired. My father's consent was pretty easily obtained, as he found himself in an ill state of health, and unable to provide for me; but my mother was inexorable. She considered that my great name would but ill suit with so low a calling, and when she saw me determined, she told me, in a flood of tears at parting, I was the first Ptolemy that ever made shoes.

"For my own part I had been so humbled at school about my name, that I never afterwards wrote more than the first letter of it; and as P., very luckily, looked more like Philip than Ptolemy, I have escaped the ridicule that would otherwise have been thrown upon me.

"At the end of my apprenticeship my uncle gave me his only daughter in marriage, and, dying soon after, I succeeded to his trade and effects, and to a fortune in good debts and money, to the amount of four thousand pounds.

"My mother, who had never thoroughly recovered the shock of her son Ptolemy's disgrace, died a few months after my uncle, and my father followed her this summer, leaving to my sisters no other fortune than their names, which, to my great sorrow, has not been quite so current in the world as to enable them to live upon it. To be as short as I can, they were all thrown upon my hands, and are

likely to continue with me as long as I live. But the misfortune is, that to keep my sisters from starving, I must become a beggar myself; for the expenses they bring, and the nothing they do, will not suffer me to go on. By their dresses, their names, and the airs of quality they give themselves, I am rendered ridiculous among all my acquaintance. My wife, who is a very plain good woman, and whose name is Amey, has been new-christened, and is called Amelia; and my little daughter, a child of a year old, is no longer Polly, but Maria. They are perpetually quarrelling with one another about the superiority of their names; and, because the eldest sister has two, and the others but one, they have entered into a combination to rob her of both, and almost to break her heart, by calling her Miss Laycock.

“I have shown them the impossibility of my maintaining them much longer, and, as tenderly as I was able, proposed their going into service; but they told me, with the utmost indignation, that whatever a shoemaker in the city might imagine to the contrary, the names of Wilhelmina Charlotta, Penthesilea, Telethusa, and Honoria, were by no means servants’ names, and unless I found myself inclined to make a better provision for them, they should continue where they were. Nay, my youngest sister, Miss Honoria, who thinks herself handsome, had the impudence to tell me, that if ever she condescended to let out her person for hire, it should be for other uses than those of a servant; to which Miss Telethusa was pleased to add, that indeed she was entirely of Honoria’s opinion; for, that the sin of being a mistress was not half so shocking to her as the shame of being a servant.

“You will judge, Sir, how desirous I am to rid

the house of them, when I tell you that I have even offered to take a shop for them at the court end of the town, and to give each of them a hundred pounds to set up with in any way they shall choose ; but their great names, forsooth, are not to be prostituted upon shop-bills, whatever their brother Ptolemy, the shoemaker, in his great zeal to serve them, may please humbly to conceive. Yet, with these truly great names, that are not to be contaminated by trade or service, they have condescended to rob my till two or three times ; and, no longer ago than last week, when I caught my eldest sister in the fact, she told me, with great dignity, that it became her brother Ptolemy to blush, at laying her under the necessity of doing an action that was so much beneath her.

“ I have laid the whole affair before the minister of the parish, who has taken a great deal of pains to reason them into their senses, but to no purpose ; and unless you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, who are a travelled man, can direct them to any part of the globe, where great names, great pride, great indolence, and great poverty are the only qualifications that men look for in a wife, I must shut up shop in a few days, and leave Miss Wilhelmina Charlotta and the other misses, her sisters, with their illustrious names, to go begging about the streets. If you know of any such place, and will do me the favour to mention it in your next Thursday’s paper, you will save a whole family from ruin, and infinitely oblige,

“ Sir,

“ Your most sorrowful humble servant,

“ P. LACOCK.”

The case of our correspondent is, I confess, a

very hard one ; and I wish, with all my heart, that I had discovered in my travels such a country as he hints at. All the advice I can give him is, to send for the minister of the parish once more, and get his sisters re-baptized ; for, till they can be prevailed upon to have new names, it will be altogether impossible to give them new natures.

No. 188. THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1756.

THOUGH the first of the following letters bears a little hard upon the ladies, for whom I have always professed a regard, even to veneration, yet I am induced to give it a place in my paper, from the consideration that, if the complaint contained in it should happen to have the least foundation in truth, they may have an opportunity of adding another proof to the multitudes they are daily giving, that they only want to be told of their errors to amend them. Of the second letter, I shall say nothing more than that the expedient proposed in it to remove the evil complained of has my entire approbation.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ With as much devotion for the fair as any man, and as high a sense of the happiness they are capable of imparting, I have resolved to die an old bachelor ; yet, not in the least determined by the

strongest arguments against matrimony, or the most fashionable motives to a single life. It is my misfortune to esteem delicacy, economy, modesty, and some of the qualifications conveyed under the idea of notable, as the most engaging ornaments of a well-bred woman. How unhappy then am I, that none of these should be of repute in the present age !

“ I had once formed a design of transporting myself to Spain or China, for a lady of the domestic kind ; but giving the preference to those of my own country I delayed my intention, till I should see the influence your weekly admonitions were attended with. I am now sorry to find, that, notwithstanding your censorial dignity, they have openly dared to persist in those fashions you have so long opposed. An unaccountable propensity to visit public places, a general nakedness of shoulders, a remarkable bluntness of face, a loud voice, and a masculine air, have lately gained much ground in the country ; and I am apt to think I shall shortly see the necks and bosoms of my fair countrywomen painted with devices of birds and beasts, in imitation of the ancient Britons, though they are now contented with plain white and red.

“ I have observed, that as we are gradually retreating from the courage and greatness of our sex, the ladies are advancing, with hasty strides, upon us ; and whether we shall long maintain the preëminence, is a point much liable to dispute.

“ I cannot but suspect them of entertaining designs of invading the province of man ; and though I acknowledge their boundless power, I never was formed to obey, and cannot think of submission. But admitting that the present generation of beauties are totally unfit for wives, except to those gentle

minds who would think themselves honoured by having their thousands spent in the genteelest manner, yet in another capacity they might be made of the greatest service to their country. When I see their hair tied in a knot behind, or either hanging down in a ramillie, or folded up in ribbons, I cannot but look on them as the fair defenders of Britain, on whose gallantry I should rather choose to rely, than on all the boasted prowess of our military beaux. On this footing I can excuse them for sacrificing the thousand nameless powers of pleasing which nature has invested them with, for the powers of destroying, and consent to their changing the darts of Cupid for the armour of Mars. Whatever magazines of lightning are laid up in their bright eyes, I hope they will blaze out on this occasion.

“If it should be objected that we ought to have proofs of their valour, and that a big look may be consistent with a faint heart; I answer, that there can be no great reason to doubt the bravery of those, who have made it one of their first maxims ‘never to be afraid of man;’ and besides, that natural love of conquest which possesses every individual of the female world, would animate them forward to the boldest enterprises. I would further propose, that the more gay and airy of them should be distributed into a body of flying light-horse; the Gadabouts would make an excellent company of foragers; the more delicate of them would serve to carry the colours, and the sight of them would inspire the soldiers with unequalled resolution and courage. Thus they might all be disposed in ranks and stations suitable to their respective merits, distinctions, and qualifications, from the first lady of quality to the lowest belle in the country village. I should also

advise, that a sufficient number of female transports should be sent to the relief of our garrisons abroad, if it was not from my apprehensions that they would not be able to sustain a long siege, and might perhaps be captivated by the immense fineness of an embroidered knight of the order of St. Louis. I have only one circumstance more to mention to excite their zeal, which is, that they must be obliged to content themselves with their own invented fashions, till the successes of their arms shall oblige the French to accept of our wealth for those that are *à la mode de Paris*.

“If this proposal be agreeable to your judgment, I hope you will second it by the warmest encouragements. May we not exult in the prospect of that glorious career of success which must attend an army of heroines, bred to a contempt of danger, and trained up from infancy itself to the most intimate acquaintance with balls, drums, routs, hurricanes, and the like?

“I am, Sir,

“Your humble servant,

“A. SINGLETON.”

“MR. FITZ-ADAM,

“I have a complaint to lay before you, which, to the best of my memory, you have not hitherto touched upon. The ground of my complaint, Sir, is this. News, you know, never was more fluctuating than at this moment. What we are told at breakfast is contradicted by noon, and that again is old by dinner; the dinner-tale scarcely lasts till coffee, and all is found to be false before night. And yet, Sir, there are a set of wise men, who are always satisfied with the last tale, and constantly assure you they were all along of that opinion.

‘Lord, Sir, I knew it must be so ; how could it be otherwise ? I always said so ;’ and though accounts vary to-morrow, it does not at all affect them ; for to-morrow they will have been all along perfectly well acquainted with just the contrary to what they knew so well to-day. This everlasting knowledge and secret intelligence is really, Sir, a most provoking insult on us poor things, who are not so knowing. If I am wrong to-day, my friend is wrong to-morrow, and that puts us on an equality ; but these people, who are always sure to be of the right opinion, because they have no opinion at all, are not to be endured.

“ But it is one thing to complain, and another to redress ; and, unless I thought I had some method to remedy the evil, I would not complain of it. The remedy I would propose is simply this ; that the term *I* be forever excluded all conversations. There is not, perhaps, one single impertinence or foppery in discourse, that is not imputable to that same little letter *I*. The old man, going to repeat the lie he has talked himself into a belief of, cries, *I* remember when *I* was young. The maiden of fifty blesses her stars, and says, *I* was not such a flirt. The bold colonel tells you, *I* led on the men, *I* entered the breach. The rake, *I* debauched such a girl, *I* drank down such a fellow. Now, Sir, fond as people are of being foolish, they would even consent to be wise, if it was not confining their follies to their own dear persons. The old man’s dull story is only to let you see what *he* was himself. The maiden gentlewoman only means to exemplify her own modesty, and does not care a pin for all the frailties of her neighbours, but that she has thereby an opportunity of telling you how virtuous she herself is. The soldier never tells you of a

campaign, but the one he was himself in. The rake never tells you of any follies but his own; and the wise men, I complained of in the beginning of my letter, never tell you Mr. Such-a-one always thought so, or Mr. Somebody always said so, but *I* always thought so, *I* always said so. Let me therefore entreat you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, to forbid the use of this monosyllable, and you will much oblige,

“ Sir,

“ Your friend, &c.,

“ W.”

No. 189. THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1756.

WE are accused by the French, and perhaps but too justly, of having no word in our language which answers to their word *police*, which therefore we have been obliged to adopt, not having, as they say, the thing.

It does not occur to me that we have any one word in our language, I hope not from the same reason, to express the ideas which they comprehend under the word *les mœurs*. Manners are too little, morals too much. I should define it thus; a general exterior decency, fitness, and propriety of conduct in the common intercourse of life.

Cicero, in his offices, makes use of the word *decorum* in this sense, to express what he tells us the Greeks signified by their word — I will not shock the eyes of my polite readers with Greek types — *To Prepon*.

The thing, however, is unquestionably of importance, by whatever word it may be dignified or degraded, distinguished or mistaken ; it shall therefore be the subject of this paper to explain and recommend it ; and, upon this occasion, I shall adopt the word decorum.

But as I have some private reasons for desiring not to lessen the sale of these my lucubrations, I must premise, that notwithstanding this serious introduction, I am not going to preach either religious or moral duties. On the contrary, it is a scheme of interest which I mean to communicate, and which, if the supposed characteristic of the present age be true, must, I should apprehend, be highly acceptable to the generality of my readers.

I take it for granted that the most sensible and informed part of mankind, I mean people of fashion, pursue singly their own interests and pleasures ; that they desire, as far as possible, to enjoy them exclusively, and to avail themselves of the simplicity, the ignorance, and the prejudices of the vulgar, who have neither the same strength of mind, nor the same advantages of education. Now it is certain that nothing would more contribute to that desirable end, than a strict observance of this decorum, which, as I have already hinted, does not extend to religious or moral duties, does not prohibit the solid enjoyments of vice, but only throws a veil of decency between it and the vulgar, conceals part of its native deformity, and prevents scandal, and bad example. It is a sort of pepper-corn quitrent paid to virtue, as an acknowledgment of its superiority ; but according to our present constitution, is the easy price of freedom, not the tribute of vassalage.

Those who would be respected by others, must first respect themselves. A certain exterior purity

and dignity of character commands respect, procures credit, and invites confidence; but the public exercise and ostentation of vice, has all the contrary effects.

The middle class of people in this country, though generally straining to imitate their betters, have not yet shaken off the prejudices of their education; very many of them still believe in a Supreme Being, in a future state of rewards and punishments, and retain some coarse, homespun notions of moral good and evil. The rational system of materialism has not yet reached them; and, in my opinion, it may be full as well it never should; for, as I am not of levelling principles, I am for preserving a due subordination from inferiors to superiors, which an equality of profligacy must totally destroy.

A fair character is a more lucrative thing than people are generally aware of; and I am informed that an eminent money scrivener has lately calculated, with great accuracy, the advantage of it, and that it has turned out a clear profit of thirteen and a half per cent. in the general transactions of life; which advantage, frequently repeated, as it must be in the course of the year, amounts to a very considerable object.

To proceed to a few instances. If the courtier would but wear the appearance of truth, promise less, and perform more, he would acquire such a degree of trust and confidence, as would enable him to strike on a sudden, and with success, some splendid stroke of perfidy, to the infinite advantage of himself and his party.

A patriot, of all people, should be a strict observer of this decorum, if he would, as it is to be presumed he would, bear a good price at the court market. The love of his dear country, well acted

and little felt, will certainly get him into good keeping, and, perhaps, procure him a handsome settlement for life ; but if his prostitution be flagrant, he is only made use of in cases of the utmost necessity, and even then only by eullies. I must observe, by the by, that of late the market has been a little glutted with patriots, and, consequently, they do not sell quite so well.

Few masters of families are, I should presume, desirous to be robbed indiscriminately by all their servants ; and, as servants in general are more afraid of the devil, and less of the gallows, than their masters, it seems to be as imprudent as indecent to that wholesome fear, either by their examples or their philosophical dissertations, exploding in their presence, though ever so justly, all the idle notions of future punishments, or of moral good and evil. At present, honest faithful servants rob their masters conscientiously only in their respective stations ; but take away those checks and restraints which the prejudices of their education have laid them under, they will soon rob indiscriminately, and out of their several departments ; which would, probably, create some little confusion in families, especially in numerous ones.

I cannot omit observing that this decorum, extends to the little trifling offices of common life ; such as seeming to take a tender and affectionate part in the health or fortune of your acquaintance, and a readiness and alacrity to serve them, in things of little consequence to them, and of none at all to you. These attentions bring in good interest ; the weak and the ignorant mistake them for the real sentiments of your heart, and give you their esteem and friendship in return. The wise, indeed, pay you in your own coin, or by a truck of commodities of

equal value ; upon which, however, there is no loss ; so that upon the whole, this commerce, skilfully carried on, is a very lucrative one.

In all my schemes for the general good of mankind, I have always a particular attention to the utility that may arise from them to my fair fellow-subjects, for whom I have the tenderest and most unfeigned concern ; and I lay hold of this opportunity most earnestly to recommend to them the strictest observance of this decorum. I will admit that a fine woman, of a certain rank, cannot have too many real vices ; but, at the same time, I do insist upon it, that it is essentially her interest, not to have the appearance of any one. This decorum, I confess, will conceal her conquests, and prevent her triumphs ; but, on the other hand, if she will be pleased to reflect that those conquests are known, sooner or later, always to end in her total defeat, she will not, upon an average, find herself a loser. There are, indeed, some husbands of such humane and hospitable dispositions, that they seem determined to share all their happiness with their friends and acquaintance ; so that with regard to such husbands singly, this decorum were useless ; but the far greater number are of a churlish and uncommunicative disposition, troublesome upon bare suspicions, and brutal upon proofs. These are capable of inflicting upon the fair delinquent the pains and penalties of exile and imprisonment at the dreadful mansion-seat, notwithstanding the most solemn protestations and oaths, backed with the most moving tears, that nothing really criminal has passed. But it must be owned, that of all negatives, this is much the hardest to be proved.

Though deep play be a very innocent and even commendable amusement in itself, it is, however, as

things are yet constituted, a great breach, nay, perhaps the highest violation possible of the decorum in the fair sex. If generally fortunate, it induces some suspicion of dexterity; if unfortunate, of debt; and, in this latter case, the ways and means for raising the supplies necessary for the current year, are sometimes supposed to be unwarrantable. But, what is still much more important is, that the agonies of an ill run will disfigure the finest face in the world, and cause most ungraceful emotions. I have known a bad game, suddenly produced upon a good game, for a deep stake at Bragg or Commerce, almost make the vermilion turn pale, and elicit from lips, where the sweets of Hybla dwelt, and where the Loves and Graces played, some murmured oaths, which, though minced and mitigated a little in their terminations, seemed to me, upon the whole, to be rather unbecoming.

Another singular advantage which will arise to my fair countrywomen of distinction from the observance of this decorum is, that they will never want some creditable led captain to attend them at a minute's warning to operas, plays, Ranelagh, and Vauxhall; whereas, I have known some women of extreme condition, who, by neglecting the decorum, had slatterned away their characters to such a degree, as to be obliged upon those emergencies, to take up with mere toadeaters, of very equivocal rank and character, who by no means graced their entry into public places.

To the young unmarried ladies, I beg leave to represent, that this decorum will make a difference of at least five-and-twenty, if not fifty per cent. in their fortunes. The pretty men, who have commonly the honour of attending them, are not in general the marrying kind of men; they love them too

much or too little; know them too well, or not well enough, to think of marrying them. The husband-like men are a set of awkward fellows with good estates, and who, not having got the better of vulgar prejudices, lay some stress upon the characters of their wives, and the legitimacy of the heirs to their estates and titles. These are to be caught only by *les mœurs*; the hook must be baited with the decorum; the naked one will not do.

I must own that it seems too severe to deny young ladies the innocent amusements of the present times, but I beg of them to recollect that I mean only with regard to outward appearances; and I should presume that *tête-à-têtes* with the pretty men might be contrived and brought about in places less public than Kensington-gardens, the two parks, the high roads, or the streets of London.

Having thus combined, as I flatter myself that I have, the solid enjoyments of vice, with the useful appearances of virtue, I think myself entitled to the thanks of my country in general, and to that just praise which Horace gives to the author, *qui miscuit utile dulci*; or, in English, who joins the useful with the agreeable.

No. 190. THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1756.

I CAN remember, when I was a young man at the university, being so much affected with that very pathetic speech which Ovid has put into the mouth of Pythagoras against eating the flesh of animals,

that it was some time before I could bring myself to our college mutton again, without some inward doubt whether I was not making myself an accomplice to a murder. My scruples remained unrec-
oneiled to the committing so horrid a meal, till, upon serious reflection, I became convinced of its legality, from the general order of nature, who has instituted the universal preying upon the weaker as one of her first principles; though to me it has ever appeared an incomprehensible mystery, that she who could not be restrained by any want of materials from furnishing supplies for the support of her various offspring, should lay them under the necessity of devouring one another.

But, though this reflection had force enough to dispythagorize me before my companions had time to make observations upon my behaviour, which could by no means have turned to my advantage in the world, I for a great while retained so tender a regard for all my fellow-creatures, that I have several times brought myself into imminent peril, by my attempts to rescue persecuted cats from the hands and teeth of their worriers; by endeavouring to prevent the engagement of dogs, who had manifestly no quarrel of their own; and, by putting butchers' boys in mind that, as their sheep were going to die, they walked full as fast as they could be reasonably expected, without the cruel blows they were so liberal in bestowing upon them. As I commonly came off by the worst in these disputes, and, as I could not but observe that I often aggravated, never diminished, the ill-treatment of these innocent sufferers, I soon found it necessary to consult my own ease, as well as security, by turning down another street, whenever I met with an adventure of this kind, rather than be compelled to be a spectator of what

would shock me, or be provoked to run myself into danger, without the least advantage to those whom I would assist.

I have kept strictly, ever since, to this method of flying from the sight of cruelty whenever I could find ground-room for it; and I make no manner of doubt that I have more than once escaped the horns of a mad ox, as all of that species are called, that do not choose to be tormented as well as killed. But, on the other hand, these escapes of mine have very frequently run me into great inconveniences; I have sometimes been led into such a series of blind alleys, that it has been matter of great difficulty to me to find my way out of them. I have been betrayed by my hurry into the middle of a market, the proper residence of inhumanity. I have paid many a six-and-eight-pence for non-appearance at the hour my lawyer had appointed for business; and, what would hurt some people worse than all the rest, I have frequently arrived too late for the dinners I have been invited to at the houses of my friends.

All these difficulties and distresses, I began to flatter myself, were going to be removed, and that I should be left at liberty to pursue my walks through the straightest and broadest streets, when Mr. Hogarth first published his prints upon the subject of cruelty; but whatever success so much ingenuity, founded upon so much humanity, might deserve, all the hopes I had built of seeing a reformation, proved vain and fruitless. I am sorry to say it, but there still remain in the streets of this metropolis more scenes of barbarity than perhaps are to be met with in all Europe besides. Asia is too well known for compassion to brutes; and nobody who has read Busbequius, will wonder at me

for most heartily wishing that our common people were no crueller than Turks.

I should have apprehensions of being laughed at, were I to complain of want of compassion in our law; the very word seeming contradictory to any idea of it; but I will venture to own that, to me, it appears strange that the man against whom I should be enabled to bring an action for laying a little dirt at my door, may, with impunity, drive by it half a dozen calves, with their tails lopped close to their bodies and their hinder parts covered with blood. He must have a passion for neatness not to be envied, who does not think this a greater nuisance than the sight of a few cinders.

I know not whether it is from the clergy's having looked upon this subject as too trivial for their notice, that we find them more silent upon it than could be wished; for as slaughter is at present no branch of the priesthood, it is to be presumed they have as much compassion as other men. The Spectator has exclaimed against the cruelty of roasting lobsters alive, and of whipping pigs to death; but, the misfortune is, the writings of an Addison are seldom read by cooks and butchers. As to the thinking part of mankind, it has always been convinced, I believe, that however conformable to the general rule of nature our devouring animals may be, for I would not be understood to impeach, what is our only visible prerogative as lords of the creation, an unbounded license of teeth, we are nevertheless under indelible obligations to prevent their suffering any degree of pain, more than is absolutely unavoidable. But this conviction lies in such hands, that I fear not one poor creature in a million has ever fared the better for it, and I believe never will; since people of condition, the only source from

whence this pity is to flow, are so far from inculcating it to those beneath them, that a very few winters ago they suffered themselves to be entertained at a public theatre by the performances of an unhappy company of animals, who could only have been made actors by the utmost energy of whipcord and starving.

I acknowledge my tenderness to be particularly affected in favour of so faithful and useful a creature as a dog; an animal so approaching to us in sense, so dependent upon us for support, and so peculiarly the friend of man, that he deserves the kindest and most gentle usage. For no less than the whole race of these animals I have been under the greatest alarms, ever since the tax upon dogs was first reported to be in agitation. I thought it a little hard, indeed, that a man should be taxed for having one creature in his house in which he might confide; but when I heard that officers were to be appointed, to knock out the brains of all these honest domestics, who should presume to make their appearance in the streets without the passport of their master's name about their necks, I became seriously concerned for them.

This enmity against dogs is pretended to be founded upon the apprehension of their going mad; but an easier remedy might be applied by abolishing the custom, with many others equally ingenious, of tying bottles and stones to their tails; by which means, and in this one particular I must give up my clients, the unfortunate sufferer becomes subject to the persecutions of his own species, too apt to join the run against a brother in distress. But great allowance should be made for an animal, who, in an intimacy of near six thousand years with man, has learnt but one of his bad qualities.

To conclude this subject ; as I cannot but join in opinion with Mr. Hogarth, that the frequency of murders among us is greatly owing to those scenes of cruelty, which the lower ranks of people are so much accustomed to ; instead of multiplying such scenes, I should rather hope that some proper method might be fixed upon, either for preventing them, or removing them out of sight ; so that our infants might not grow up into the world in a familiarity with blood. If we may believe the naturalist, that a lion is a gentle animal till his tongue has been dipped in blood, what precaution ought we to use to prevent man from being inured to it, who has such superiority of power to do mischief?

No. 191. THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1756.

Difficile est Satiram non scribere.— JUV. SAT. i. 30.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ It has always appeared to me that there is something extremely absurd in a general satire ; for as it will always instruct vanity how to shun, and enable impudence to reject its application, I cannot discover that it is likely to answer any better purpose, than that of giving encouragement to rogues, and administering comfort to fools.

“ This species of writing is by no means of modern invention, and consequently can have no essential

connection with the reigning manners of the present times. If we examine the satirists of any other age, we shall find that they have all unanimously followed the example of their father, Simonides, and represented the human species in a very unnatural light; nor do I think it possible for any one to display his talents this way, without having recourse to the same expedient. From hence I would infer that the description of a monstrous character, in those early days of simplicity and innocence, was considered only as an ingenious piece of invention, and that their false notion of wit was the sole occasion of their giving into such a ridiculous custom. And this, as I take it, will be sufficient to account for its being so fashionable with us at this time, though there be manifestly no other reason for our admitting it, than because we are pleased to fancy the judgment of the ancients, and love to copy indiscriminately from all their models with a servile veneration. But supposing this to be a true representation of the case before us, and that men of wit never satirize with any offensive design, but purely for the sake of displaying their abilities; yet what shall we say for those churlish malecontents, who pretend to write satire, with no other earthly talent for it than rank malevolence? Why truly, it is to be feared, they may have no less exasperating a reason for reviling all mankind, than because they are deservedly despised by everybody that knows them. For as it is absurd to suppose, that a man who has always been very civilly treated by the world, should have any inclination to fall out with it in good earnest, so every worthless fellow who has been justly mortified by its contempt or aversion, will naturally be provoked to expose himself to its utmost derision, by a silly attempt to retaliate the insult. And hence

it is, that if a few splenetic conceited wretches are not caressed up to the extravagant expectation of their own imaginary deserts, they shall immediately vent their resentment in all those alarming exclamations, which have, with equal propriety, been echoed through every century of the world. Then forsooth, that utter neglect of merit, which has been the constant reproach of every other age, shall once more be the peculiar infamy of this ; then we shall be sunk again into the very dregs of time, and shall at length be most assuredly filling up that astonishing measure of iniquity, which has been just on the very brink of being completed, ever since the first judicial infliction of a universal deluge.

“It is very remarkable that this whim of degeneracy has always been most prevalent in the most refined and enlightened ages, and that it has constantly increased in exact proportion with the progress of arts and sciences. Every considerate person, therefore, upon such a discovery, will of course be inclined to consider all invectives against the corruption of the present times, as so many convincing testimonies of our real improvement. I find, Mr. Fitz-Adam, it is your opinion, that the experience of our ancestors has not been entirely thrown away upon us, and that the world is likely to grow better and wiser the longer it lasts. I must own I am entirely of your way of thinking, and should be very ready to declare, was I not afraid of offending your modesty, how much benefit it is likely to receive from your weekly instructions.

“To those who are sequestered from the more crowded scenes of life, and must therefore find themselves forestalled almost on every subject, but such as the private fund of their own imaginations can furnish them with ; to those, I say, it may seem

very surprising that you should be able to procure so many fresh materials for the gratification of their curiosity. But the fancy of the polite multitude is inexhaustibly fertile; and they who are conversant with it at this time, will be so far from imagining that you are distressed for want of novelty, that they will rather think it impossible for the nimblest pen to keep pace with its innovations. The only thing that can give them any surprise is, that you should still be catching at every recent folly that comes in your way, when they can supply you with such a plentiful crop of new and unheard-of virtues. I am aware that new virtues will sound a little odd to some precise formal creatures, who have conceived a strange notion that all the virtues must eternally and invariably result from some certain unintelligible principles, which are called the relations and fitnesses of things. But surely no man in his senses would ever refuse to vary the fashion of his morals, if the taste of the times required it; for it would be absurd, to the last degree, to suppose that it is not altogether as reasonable to dress out our manners to the best advantage, as to wear any external ornament for the recommendation of our persons; and not only because the common practice of the world will justify our using as much art in managing the former as the latter, but because it is difficult to conceive that there should be any more essential harm in new modelling a habit of the mind, than in altering the trim of a coat or waistcoat.

“And really, it is astonishing to think what an advantage our present improved state of morality has over all the ancient systems of virtue. If barely to avoid vice has been generally reckoned the beginning of virtue, to convert vice itself into virtue, must needs border very nearly on the very perfection of

merit. And can any one pretend to deny but that many practices which, in times past, were branded with infamy, have at length, by our ingenious contrivances, been transformed into the most reputable accomplishments? A great wit of the last age having asked, by way of a problem, why it was much more difficult to say any thing new in a panegyric than in a satire, endeavoured to account for it himself, by observing, that all the virtues of mankind were to be counted upon a few fingers, whereas their vices were innumerable, and time was hourly adding to the heap. But a late moralist has been so obliging as to make a great diminution in the number of our vices, and withal so ingenious, as to enlist the greatest part of them into the catalogue of virtues; so that at present a copious lampoon ought to be looked upon as a work of amazing invention, and a trite or barren dedication as the effect only of dulness. I will not pretend to prophesy to what an eminent degree of perfection this double advantage must, in time, advance us. It is certain that we have at present but few vices left for us to encounter with; and, as I have reason to believe that it is their names chiefly which make them formidable, I think it would be very prudent first of all to give their characters a little softening; for could we but once bring ourselves to look upon them with indifference, I make no doubt but we should soon be able, either to extirpate them entirely, or, at least, to gain them over, with the rest of their party, to the side of virtue.

“Some travellers, indeed, have endeavoured to make us believe, that many of our modern virtues have been long since practised in some other parts of the world; but let them talk of the Mengrelians, Topinambos, and Hottentots, as much as they please,

yet I am satisfied that we have made more refinements, if not more discoveries, than any of them; and that we are still cultivating many curious tracts in the regions of virtue, which, in all likelihood, without our assistance, must have forever remained in the *terra incognita* of morals.

“I am, Sir,
“Yours,” &c.

No. 192. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1756.

IN all my researches into the human heart, the study of which has taken up my principal attention for these forty years past, I have never been so confounded and perplexed as at discovering, that while people are indulging themselves openly and without disguise in the commission of almost every vice that their natures incline them to, they should desire to conceal their virtues, as if they were really ashamed of them, and considered them as so many weaknesses in their constitutions. I know a man at this very hour, who is in his heart the most domestic creature living, and whose wife and children are the only delight of his life, yet who, for fear of being laughed at by his acquaintance, and to get a reputation in the world, is doing penance every evening at the tavern, and perpetually hinting to his companions, that he has a mistress in private. I am acquainted with another, who being overheard, upon a sick-bed, to recommend himself to the care of

Heaven in a short ejaculation, was so ashamed of being told of it, that he pleaded light-headedness for his excuse, protesting that he could not possibly have been in his right senses, and guilty of such a weakness. I know also a third, who, from a serious turn of mind, goes to church every Sunday, in a part of the town where he is totally unknown, that he may recommend himself to his acquaintance, by laughing at public worship and ridiculing the parsons.

There are men who are so fond of the reputation of an intrigue with a handsome married woman, that without the least passion for the object of their pursuit, or perhaps the ability to gratify it if they had, are toasting her in all companies, pursuing her to every public place, and eternally buzzing in her ear to convince the world that they are in possession of a happiness, which, if offered to them, would only end in their disappointment and disgrace. And what is still more unaccountable, the lady thus pursued, who possibly prefers her husband to all other men, should countenance, by her behaviour, the suspicions entertained of her; and, contenting herself with the secret consciousness of her innocence, shall take pains to be thought infamous by the whole town.

That there are persons of a different stamp from these, I very readily allow; persons who determine to pay themselves, by pleasure, for the scandal they have occasioned. But it is really my opinion, that if the mask were torn off, we should find more virtues and fewer vices to exist among us, than are commonly imagined by those who judge only from appearances.

A very ingenious French writer, speaking of the force of custom and example, makes the following remarks upon his countrymen.

‘A man,’ says he, ‘of good sense and good nature, speaks ill of the absent, because he would not be despised by those who are present. Another would be honest, humane, and without pride, if he was not afraid of being ridiculous; and a third becomes really ridiculous, through such qualities as would make him a model of perfection, if he dared to exert them, and assume his just merits. In a word,’ continues he, ‘our vices are artificial as well as our virtues, and the frivolousness of our characters permits us to be but imperfectly what we are. Like the playthings we give our children, we are only a faint resemblance of what we would appear. Accordingly, we are esteemed by other nations only as the petty toys and trifles of society. The first law of our politeness regards the women. A man of the highest rank owes the utmost complaisance to a woman of the very lowest condition, and would blush for shame, and think himself ridiculous in the highest degree, if he offered her any personal insult. And yet such a man may deceive and betray a woman of merit, and blacken her reputation, without the least apprehension either of blame or punishment.’

I have quoted these remarks that I might do justice to the candour of the Frenchman who wrote them, and at the same time vindicate my countrymen, unaccountable as they are, from the unjust imputation of being more ridiculous and absurd than the rest of mankind.

In France, every married woman of condition intrigues openly; and it is thought the highest breach of French politeness, for the husband to interfere in any of her pleasures. A man may be called to an account for having seduced his friend’s sister or daughter, because it may be presumed he has car-

ried his point by a promise of marriage ; but with a married woman the case is quite different, as her gallant can only have applied to her inclinations, or gratified the longings of a lady, whom it had been infamy to have refused.

There is a story of a Frenchman, which, as I have only heard once, and the majority of my readers perhaps never, I shall beg leave to relate. A banker at Paris, who had a very handsome wife, invited an English gentleman, with whom he had some money transactions, to take a dinner with him at his country-house. Soon after dinner, the Frenchman was called out upon business, and his friend left alone with the lady, who, to his great surprise, from being the easiest and gayest woman imaginable, scarcely condescended to give an answer to any of his questions ; and at last, starting from her chair, and surveying him for some time with a look of indignation and contempt, she gave him a hearty box on the ear, and ran furiously out of the room. While the Englishman was stroking his face, and endeavouring to penetrate into this mysterious behaviour, the husband returned ; and finding his friend alone, and inquiring into the reason, was told the whole story. ‘What, Sir,’ says he, ‘did she strike you? How did you entertain her?’ ‘With the common occurrences of the town,’ answered the Englishman ; ‘nothing more, I assure you.’ ‘And did you offer no rudeness to her,’ returned the other? ‘No, upon my honour,’ replied the friend. ‘She has behaved as she ought, then,’ said the Frenchman ; ‘for to be alone with a fine woman, and make no attempt upon her virtue, is an affront to her beauty ; and she has resented the indignity as became a woman of spirit.’

I am prevented from returning to the subject of

this paper, by a letter which I have just now received by the penny-post, and which I shall lay before my readers exactly as it was sent me.

“MR. FITZ-ADAM,

“Walking up St. James’s Street the other day, I was stopt by a very smart young female, who begged my pardon for her boldness, and, looking very innocently in my face, asked me, if I did not know her. The manner of her accosting me, and the extreme prettiness of her figure, made me look at her with attention; and I soon recollected that she had been a servant girl of my wife’s, who had taken her from the country, and, after keeping her three years in her service, had dismissed her about two months ago. ‘What Nanny,’ said I, ‘is it you? I never saw anybody so fine in all my life.’ ‘O Sir!’ says she, with the most innocent smile imaginable, bridling her head, and courtesying down to the ground, ‘I have been debauched since I lived with my mistress.’ ‘Have you so, Mrs. Nanny,’ said I; ‘and pray, child, who is it that has debauched you?’ ‘O, Sir!’ says she, ‘one of the worthiest gentlemen in the world, and he has bought me a new *négligé* for every day in the week.’ The girl pressed me earnestly to go and look at her lodgings, which she assured me were hard by in Bury Street, and as fine as a duchess’s; but I declined her offer, knowing that any arguments of mine in favour of virtue and stuffgowns, would avail but little against pleasure and silk *négligés*. I therefore contented myself with expressing my concern for the way of life she had entered into, and bade her farewell.

“Being a man inclined to speculate a little, as often as I think of the finery of this girl, and the

reason alleged for it, I cannot help fancying, whenever I fall in company with a pretty woman, dressed out beyond her visible circumstances, patched, painted, and ornamented to the extent of the mode, that she is going to make me her best courtesy, and to tell me ; ‘ O, Sir ! I have been debauched since I kept good company.’

“ But though this excuse for finery was given me by a woman, I believe it may, with equal propriety, be applied to the men. Fine places, fine fortunes, fine houses, and fine things of all kinds, are too often purchased at the expense of honesty ; and I seldom see a plain country gentleman turned courtier, and bowing in a fine coat at the levees of great men, whose looks do not tell me that he is come to town to be debauched.

“ I could wish, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that from these rude hints, you would favour your readers with a speculation upon this subject, which would be highly entertaining to all, and particularly obliging to

“ Sir,

“ Your most humble servant,

“ C. D.”

No. 193. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1756.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ As I have a singular favour to beg of you, I think it proper to preface my request with some account of myself.

“I am at present one of the numerous fraternity of distressed gentlemen ; a disconsolate being, daily contending betwixt pride and poverty ; a mournful relic of misspent youth ; a walking dial, with two hands pointing to the lost hours ; and having been long ago tired with putting my fingers into empty pockets, am at last desirous of employing them in soliciting the assistance and recommendation of The World.

“I was bred at a great public school, not far from this metropolis, where I acquired a knowledge of the classics and the town superior to my years. From this school I was transmitted to a renowned college in a celebrated university, from whence my dull and phlegmatic contemporaries have slid into the greatest preferments in church and state. They contented themselves, indeed, with going on a jog trot in the common road of application and patience, while I galloped with spirit through ways less confined, till at last I found myself benighted in a maze of debts and distresses. However, as I continued to adorn my mind with the most elevated sentiments of ancient and modern poetry, I was the most sanguine of all mortals, never once doubting but that the time would shortly arrive when I was to be loaded with fortune and distinguished by honours. I looked upon avarice as the meanest of vices, and therefore rooted it from my bosom. I considered friendship as the noblest of virtues, and therefore became the friend of everybody. Impudence I discarded, and called in modesty and humility to be my counsellors. Thus generous, friendly, modest, and humble, I was placed by my friends in the Inner Temple. But I quickly discovered that my acquired virtues, and uncommon knowledge, were so many impediments to the study of the law ; a

profession too solid in itself to require any external advantages, and, except the great wig and sergeant's coiff, seeming absolutely independent of all acquisitions whatsoever. I therefore quitted it in time, and commenced fine gentleman. In this capacity I had the honour of sipping my chocolate in a certain house, was chosen member of a certain club, and soon found that I wanted nothing but money to have passed my time as agreeably as the best of them ; that is to say, by being always in good company, without the fatigue of good conversation ; ever at a feast, without the vulgar call of appetite ; constantly at play, without the least sport ; hungering after politics, without the powers of digestion ; and embarrassed with acquaintance, without a single friend. But wanting the one thing needful for all these enjoyments, and there being a war upon the continent, I quitted the fine gentleman for the soldier, and made a campaign in Flanders. My regimentals were highly pleasing to me ; and I had certainly succeeded to a staff before the end of the war, could I have arrived at the least smattering, either of gunnery or fortification. I had read Cæsar's Commentaries and Polybius, and fancied myself improved by them ; but Bland's treatise of military exercise was what I could never comprehend. However, I loitered through the campaign without ignominy, and, at my return home, wisely sold my commission.

“ The great and decisive step in life still remained untried. The temple of Hymen, with all its enchanting prospects, was open to my view, and allured my attention. The groups of Cupids that seemed to flutter in the roof, together with the gayety and satisfaction that appeared in every face, tempted me to enter ; and, amidst a crowd of beau-

ties, a young lady of a most ingenuous countenance and slender make, soon captivated my choice. She was void of pride, notable, steady, enterprising, and every way qualified for the station of life in which fortune had placed her, which was that of a maid of honour to a foreign princess. Her name was Mademoiselle Necessité, daughter of a younger branch of the ancient family of that name in Gascony. She lent a favourable ear to my addresses; and, indeed, a strong similitude of features and circumstances seemed to have destined us for one another.

“Amidst the inexpressible joys of this union, I became the father of two lovely daughters, who were christened by very genteel foreign names, signifying, in English, Assurance and Invention. I exhausted the small remainder of my substance on the education of these daughters; not doubting but that they were given to me for the support of my declining years. At the instigation of the eldest, I commenced author, and made the press groan with my productions in prose and verse. I sighed for the revival of factions and parties, to have an opportunity of signalizing my pen in the service of my country; and, like the heroine of old, who encompassed a large territory with a single hide, I entertained hopes, from a well-timed half-penny ballad, to new-hang my garret with the most elegant paper. But I soon found that I had nothing to eat but my own words, and that it was in vain for me to write, unless a scheme was found out to compel men to read; and indeed, were it not for the charity-schools, which have, in some measure, multiplied the literati in this country, the names of author and publisher would, long since, have been obliterated.

“You may easily perceive, Sir, that I am now in that class of life, which I can only distinguish by the title of the distressed gentleman. But however uncomfortable my situation may be, I am determined to give my existence fair play, and to see it out to the last act. You need therefore be under no apprehensions of my dying suddenly; and, to say the truth, I have so great a veneration for physicians and apothecaries, that I cannot think of taking the business out of their hands, by becoming my own executioner.

“My youngest daughter, who is really a most ingenious girl, has frequently solicited me to try a scheme of hers; which, after long and mature deliberation, I am inclined to think may be of great service to my country, and of no small benefit to myself and family.

“I have long remarked the number of sudden deaths that abound in this island, and have ever lamented the disgraceful methods that persons of both sexes in this metropolis are almost daily taking to get rid of their being. The disfiguring pistol, the slow stupefaction of laudanum, the ignominious rope, the uncertain garter, the vulgarity of the New River, and the fetid impurity of Rosamond’s Pond, must be extremely shocking to the delicacy of all genteel persons, who are willing to die decently as well as suddenly. At once, therefore, to remedy these inconveniences, I have contracted for a piece of ground near the Foundling Hospital, and procured credit with a builder to erect convenient apartments for the reception of all such of the nobility, gentry, and others, as are tired of life. I have contrived a most effectual machine for the easy decapitation of such as choose that noble and honourable exit; which, no doubt, must give great

satisfaction to all persons of quality, and those who would imitate them. I have a commodious bath for disappointed ladies, paved with marble, and fed by the clearest springs, where the patient may drown with the utmost privacy and elegance. I have pistols for gamesters, which, instead of bullets or slugs, are charged with loaded dice, so that they may have the pleasure of putting an end to their existence by the very means which supported it. I have daggers and poison for distressed actors and actresses, and swords fixed obliquely in the floor with their points upwards, for the gentlemen of the army. For attorneys, tradesmen, and mechanics, who have no taste for the genteeler exits, I have a long room in which a range of halters are fastened to a beam, with their nooses ready tied. I have also a handsome garden for the entombing of all my good customers, and shall submit their consideration of me to their own generosity, only claiming their heads as my constant fee, that, by frequent dissections and examinations into the several brains, I may at last discover and remedy the cause of so unnatural a propensity. And that nothing may be wanting to make my scheme complete, I propose agreeing with a coroner by the year, to bring in such verdicts as I shall think proper to direct.

“This, Sir, is my scheme; and the favour I have to ask is, that you will recommend it to the public, and make it known through your *World*, that I shall open my house on the first day of November next; and that, to prevent mistakes, there will be written, in large capitals over the door,

“THE RECEPTACLE FOR SUICIDES.”

“I am, Sir,

“Your humble servant,

“JOHN ANTHONY TRISTMAN.”

“Bloomsbury Fields, Sept. 3, 1756.”

No. 194. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1756.

I HAVE lately considered it as a very great misfortune, that in various papers of this work I have made no scruple of honestly confessing to my readers, that I look upon myself to be the wisest and most learned philosopher of this age and nation. But the word is gone forth, and I cannot retract it; nor indeed would it be fair in me to attempt it, as I find no manner of decay in my intellectual faculties, but, on the contrary, that I am treasuring up new knowledge day after day. I was aware, indeed, that such a confession, given modestly and voluntarily under my own hand, and confirmed almost every week by a most excellent essay, would gain universal belief, and bring upon me the envy of the weak and malicious; but, with all my penetration, I was far from foreseeing the many inconveniences to which it has subjected me.

My lodgings are crowded almost every morning with learned ladies of all ranks, who, like so many queens of Sheba, are come from afar to hear the wisdom of Solomon; but it happens a little unfortunately, that though my answers to their questions give equal satisfaction with those of that monarch, yet the gold, and the spices, and the precious stones, which were the reward of his wisdom, are never so much as offered me.

In the families which I visit abroad, a profound silence is observed as soon as I enter the room; so that, instead of mixing in a free and easy conver-

sation, I labour under all the disadvantages of a king, by being so unfortunately circumstanced as to have no equal.

I have endeavoured, by stratagem, to remove these inconveniences, and have frequently written a very dull paper, that my companions may imagine they have caught me tripping, and be induced to converse with me as with other men; but they found out my design, and are so far from applying to me the *aliquando bonus dormitat Homerus*, that they regard me as a prodigy wherever I am seen. Mrs. Fitz-Adam, indeed, who is less in awe of me than perhaps I would sometimes choose, and who is of a communicative disposition, never fails to inform me how the world goes on; she also encourages her maid Betty, who is a very knowing body in all family concerns, to bestow upon me, as she waits at table, her whole stock of intelligence; which if I had a mind to be personal, would contribute greatly to the entertainment of these papers. I ought not to conceal that I owe the freedom with which the girl treats me, to the small opinion she has conceived of my parts; having been often urged by her to turn *The World* into a newspaper, for that then there would be truth in it, and something worth reading.

At the coffee-houses, I am still more perplexed than in private families; for as every man there is a politician, and as I have incautiously declared in print that I am a consummate master of that science, I am surrounded at my entrance by all the company in the room, and questioned by twenty voices at once on the state of public affairs. I am drawn into an ambuscade with General Braddock, and kept in close confinement with Admiral Byng. Russia and Prussia, though our very good friends

and allies, have declared war upon my quiet, and the national militia has beaten me out of doors. To plead ignorance upon these occasions would be highly unbecoming a lover of truth, who has given it under his hand that he knows every thing; and to discover all I know, might, as matters stand at present, be a little imprudent. I am therefore a silent hearer of all the questions that are asked me, till, having tired them with taciturnity, I am suffered to escape.

To remedy this inconvenience, and as I am a great walker, I now and then take a stroll to the coffee-houses about Moorfields and Cripplegate, where, if not my name, my person at least is unknown. At these places I have the good fortune of being an uninterrupted hearer of all that passes; and I cannot sufficiently express the pleasure I receive at seeing so many worthy tradesmen and mechanics met together every evening for the good of their country, and each of them laying down a system of politics, that would do honour to the sagacity of the ablest administration.

I am tempted to take these walks rather oftener than is agreeable to me, to avoid certain inconveniences at home, which my wonderful abilities are almost continually subjecting me to. The political writers are, at present, a very numerous body; and, as they cannot but take notice that I am making no pecuniary advantage of my great knowledge in public affairs, and are thoroughly sensible that a very small part of it would make a rich figure in a twelve-penny pamphlet, they are continually teasing me, according to the school-boy's phrase, for a little sense; but whatever sense the readers of those pamphlets may chauce to find in them, I can truly assure them that it is none of mine. The constitu-

ents of boroughs are also very importunate with me for letters of instruction to their several members ; but though I entirely approve of this custom, and think it highly necessary that every gentleman in parliament should be instructed by his constituents in the true interest of his country, yet I beg to be excused from meddling with such matters, and content myself with dismissing the said constituents with one word of advice, which is, that in all their remonstrances to their members, they would touch as slightly as possible upon the grievance of corruption ; it being, in my private opinion, quarrelling with their bread and butter.

To balance all this weight of inconveniences, I have nothing but a little vanity to throw into the scale ; for to confess a very serious truth, the happiness I enjoy is more owing to my great virtue than my great knowledge ; and were it not for my goodwill to mankind, who will not suffer themselves to be instructed by any other hand, I would part with my wisdom at a very easy price, and be as ignorant as the best of them.

The value of every acquisition is only to be estimated by its uses ; and everybody knows, that in the commerce with the world, an ounce of cunning is worth a pound of sense. I am sorry to say it, but the whistle, the top, the hobby-horse, and the raree-show, have administered more delight to my boyish days, for I have been a boy as well as others, than all the treasures of learning and philosophy have done to my riper years. Those pleasures, in time, gave way to others of a higher nature ; and the facetious Mr. Punch took his turn to entertain me. The theatres at last attracted all my attention. There, while my imagination was cheated, and real kings and queens, in all the magnificence of royalty,

seemed to be exhibiting themselves to my view, my delight was inexpressible. But reason and knowledge soon combining against me, showed me that all was deception; and in conjunction with a demon, called Taste, suggested to me at one time the weakness of the performance, and at another the incapacity of the actors, till, in the end, nothing but a Shakspeare and a Garriek had power to entertain me.

Thus driven by too much refinement from all the pleasures of youth, I had recourse to those deep and profound studies, that have since made me the object of my own wonder, and the astonishment of mankind. But alas! how ineffectual and unsatisfying are all human acquisitions! The abilities that will forever make my memory revered, are robbing me of my enjoyment; and, besides the evils that I have already enumerated, I am regretting in the best company that I cannot enjoy the solidity of my own thoughts, and am hardly to be persuaded that there is any thing worth reading, but what I write myself.

A little learning, as Mr. Pope observes, is a dangerous thing. Let me add from experience, that too much is a fatal one. And indeed it seems the peculiar happiness of the present age to chime in with these sentiments; insomuch, that it is hoped and expected of the rising generation, that they will be so trained up, as to suffer no inconveniences from any learning at all. The pleasures of childhood will then be constantly secured to them, and, with ignorance for their guide, they may take their pilgrimage from the cradle to the grave, through a constant road of delight.

Samson was destroyed by his own strength; and the wisdom of Adam Fitz-Adam, like that of Solomon of old, is only vanity and vexation.

No. 195. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1756.

—*Generosiùs*
Perire quærens, nec muliebriter
Expavit ense.—

HOR. CAR. i. 37. 21.

But she a nobler fate explored,
Nor woman-like beheld the deathful sword.

FRANCIS.

“TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“SIR,

“To a well-disposed mind, there can be no greater satisfaction than the knowledge that one’s labours for the good of the public have been crowned with success. This, Sir, is remarkably the case of your paper of September the 9th, on Suicide; a fashionable rage, which I hope you will proceed to expose; and I do not doubt but you will be as famous for rooting out what I may be allowed to call single combat, or the humour of fighting with one’s self, as your predecessor *The Tatler*, was for exploding the ridiculous customs of duels. The pleasantry of your essay on the reigning modes of voluntary deaths, has preserved to a little neighbourhood a very hospitable gentleman, to the poor a good friend, to a very deserving son and daughter a tender parent, and has saved the person himself from a foolish exit. This character, Sir, which perhaps from a natural partiality I may have drawn a little too amiably, I take to be my own; and not to trouble you with the history of a man who has nothing re-

markable belonging to him, I will only let you into what is so far necessary, as that I am a gentleman of about fifty, have a moderate estate in very good condition, have seen a great deal of the world, and without being weary of it, live chiefly in the country with children whom I love. You will be curious to know what could drive my thoughts to so desperate a resolution, when I tell you further, that I hate gaming, have buried my wife, and have no one illness. But alas ! Sir, I am extremely well-born ; pedigree is my distemper ; and having observed how much the mode of self-murder prevails among people of rank, I grew to think that there was no living without killing one's self. I reflected how many of my great ancestors had fallen in battle, by the axe, or in duels, according as the turn of the several ages in which they lived, disposed of the nobility ; and I thought the descendant of so many heroes must contrive to perish by means as violent and illustrious. What a disgrace, thought I, for the great-grandson of Mowbrays, Veres, and Beauchamps, to die, in a good old age of a fever ! I blushed whenever I cast mine eyes on our genealogy in the little parlour. — I determined to shoot myself. It is true, no man ever had more reluctance to leave the world ; and when I went to clean my pistols, every drop of Mowbray blood in my veins ran as cold as ice. As my constitution is good and hearty, I thought it would be time enough to die suddenly twenty or thirty years hence ; but happening about a month ago to be near choked by a fish-bone, I was alarmed for the honour of my family, and have been ever since preparing for death. The letter to be left on my table, which indeed cost me some trouble to compose, as I had no reason to give for my sudden resolution, was written out fair, when

I read your paper; and from that minute I have changed my mind; and though it should be ever so great a disgrace to my family, I am resolved to live as long and as happily as I can.

“You will no doubt, good Sir, be encouraged from this example, to pursue the reformation of this contagious crime. Even in the small district where I live, I am not the only instance of the propensity to such a catastrophe. The lord of the manor, whose fortune indeed is much superior to mine, though there is no comparison in the antiquity of our families, has had the very same thought. He is turned of sixty-seven, and is devoured by the stone and gout. In a dreadful fit of the former, as his physician was sitting by his bedside, on a sudden his lordship ceased roaring, and commanded his relations and chaplain to withdraw, with a composure unusual to him, even in his best health; and, putting on the greatest appearance of philosophy, or what, if the chaplain had stayed, would have been called resignation, he commanded the doctor to tell him, if his case was really desperate. The physician, with a slow profusion of latinized evasions, endeavoured to elude the question, and to give him some glimmerings of hope, that there might be a chance that the extremity of pain would occasion a degree of fever, that might not be mortal in itself, but which, if things did not come to a crisis soon, might help to carry his lordship off. ‘I understand you, by G—d,’ says his lordship, with great tranquillity and a few more oaths; ‘Yes, d—n you, you want to kill me with some of your confounded distempers; but I’ll tell you what, I only asked you, because, if I can’t possibly live, I am determined to kill myself; for rot me! if it shall ever be said that a man of my quality died of a cursed natural death. There, tell

Boman to give you your fee, and bid him bring me my pistols.' However, the fit abated, and the neighbourhood is still waiting, with great impatience, to be surprised with an account of his lordship's having shot himself.

"However, Mr. Fitz-Adam, extensive as the service is which you may render to the community by abolishing this heathenish practice, I think in some respects it is to be treated with tenderness; in one case always to be tolerated. National courage is certainly not at high-water mark; what if the notion of the dignity of self-murder should be indulged till the end of the war? A man who has resolution enough to kill himself, will certainly never dread being killed by anybody else. It is the privilege of a free-dying Englishman to choose his death; if any of our high-spirited notions are cramped, it may leaven our whole fund of valour; and while we are likely to have occasion for all we can exert, I should humbly be of opinion, that you permit self-murder till the peace, upon this condition, that it should be dishonourable for any man to kill himself, till he had found that no Frenchman was brave enough to perform that service for him.

"Indeed, the very celebration of this mystery has been transacted hitherto in a manner somewhat mean and unworthy people of fashion. No tradesman could hang himself more feloniously than our very nobles do. There is none of that open defiance of the laws of their country, none of that contempt for what the world may think of them, which they so properly wear on other occasions. They steal out of the world from their own closets, or before their servants are up in a morning. They leave a miserable apology behind them, instead of sitting up all night drinking, till the morning comes for

dispatching themselves. Unlike their great originals, the Romans, who had reduced self-murder to a system of good-breeding, and used to send cards to their acquaintance to notify their intention. Part of the duty of the week in Rome was to leave one's name at the doors of such as were starving themselves. Particular friends were let in; and if very intimate, it was even expected that they should use some commonplace phrases of dissuasion. I can conceive no foundation for our shabby way of bolting into t'other world, but that obsolete law which inflicts a crossroad and a stake on self-executioners; a most absurd statute; nor can I imagine any penalty that would be effectual, unless one could condemn a man who had killed himself to be brought to life again. Somewhere, indeed, I have read of a successful law for restraining this crime. In some of the Grecian states, the women of fashion incurred the anger of Venus — I quite forget upon what occasion; perhaps for little or none; goddesses in those days were scarce less whimsical than their fair votaries. Whatever the cause was, she inspired them with a fury of self-murder. The legislature of the country, it seems, thought the resentment of the deity a little arbitrary; and, to put a stop to the practice, devised an expedient, which one should have thought would have been very inadequate to the evil. They ordered the beauteous bodies of the lovely delinquents to be hung up naked by one foot in the public squares. How the fair offenders came to think this attitude unbecoming, or why they imagined any position that discovered all their charms, could be so, is not mentioned by historians; nor, at this distance of time, is it possible for us moderns to guess; certain it is, that the penalty put a stop to the barbarous custom.

“ But what shall one say to those countries, which not only allow this crime, but encourage it, even in that part of the species whose softness demands all protection, and seems most abhorrent from every thing sanguinary and fierce? We know there are nations, where the magistrate gravely gives permission to the ladies to accompany their husbands into the other world, and where it is reckoned the greatest profligacy for a widow not to demand leave to burn herself alive. Were this fashion once to take here, I tremble to think what havoc it would occasion. Between the natural propensity to suicide, and the violence of conjugal engagements, one should not see such a thing as a lozenge, or a widow. Adieu jointures! adieu those soft resources of the brave and necessitous! What unfortunate relict but would prefer being buried alive to the odious embraces of a second passion? Indeed, Mr. Fitz-Adam, you must keep a strict eye on our fair countrywomen. I know one or two who already wear pocket pistols, which, considering the tenderness of their natures, can only be intended against their own persons. And this article leads me naturally to the only case, in which, as I hinted above, I think self-murder always to be allowed. The most admired death in history is that of the incomparable Lucretia, the pattern of her sex, and the eventual foundress of Roman liberty. As there never has been a lady since that time, in her circumstances, but what has imitated her example, I think, Sir, I may pronounce the case immutably to be excepted; and when Mr. Fitz-Adam, with that success and glory which always has and must attend his labours, has decried the savage practice in vogue, I am persuaded he will declare that she is not only excusable,

but that it is impossible any woman should live after having been ravished.

“I am, Sir,

“Your truly obliged humble servant

“and admirer,

“H. M.”

No. 196. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1756.

It is a vulgar notion, and worthy of the vulgar, for it is both false and absurd, that passionate people are the best-natured people in the world. ‘They are a little hasty, it is true; a trifle will put them in a fury; and while they are in that fury, they neither know nor care what they say or do; but then as soon as it is over, they are extremely sorry and penitent for any injury or mischief they did.’ This panegyric on these choleric good-natured people, when examined and simplified, amounts, in plain common sense and English, to this; that they are good-natured when they are not ill-natured; and that when in their fits of rage they have said or done things that have brought them to the jail or the gallows, they are extremely sorry for it. It is, indeed, highly probable that they are; but where is the reparation to those whose reputations, limbs, or lives they have either wounded or destroyed? This concern comes too late, and is only for themselves. Self-love was the cause of the injury, and is the only motive of the repentance.

Had these furious people real good-nature, their first offence would be their last, and they would re-

solve at all events never to relapse. The moment they felt their choler rising, they would enjoin themselves an absolute silence and inaction, and by that sudden check rather expose themselves to a momentary ridicule, which, by the way, would be followed by universal applause, than run the least risk of being irreparably mischievous.

I know it is said on their behalf, that this impulse to wrath is constitutionally so sudden and so strong, that they cannot stifle it, even in its birth; but experience shows us that this allegation is notoriously false; for we daily observe that these stormy persons both can and do lay those gusts of passion, when awed by respect, restrained by interest, or intimidated by fear. The most outrageous furioso does not give a loose to his anger in presence of his sovereign, or his mistress; nor the expectant heir in presence of the peevish dotard from whom he hopes for an inheritance. The soliciting courtier, though perhaps under the strongest provocations, from unjust delays and broken promises, calmly swallows his unavailing wrath, disguises it even under smiles, and gently waits for more favourable moments; nor does the criminal fly in a passion at his judge or his jury.

There is, then, but one solid excuse to be alleged in favor of these people; and, if they will frankly urge it, I will candidly admit it, because it points out its own remedy. I mean, let them fairly confess themselves mad, as they most unquestionably are; for what plea can those that are frantic ten times a day bring against shaving, bleeding, and a dark room, when so many much more harmless madmen are confined in their cells at Bedlam for being mad only once in a moon? Nay, I have been assured by the late ingenious Doctor Monroe, that

such of his patients who were really of a good natured disposition, and who, in their lucid intervals, were allowed the liberty of walking about the hospital, would frequently, when they found the previous symptoms of their returning madness, voluntarily apply for confinement, conscious of the mischief which they might possibly do, if at liberty. If those who pretend not to be mad, but who really are so, had the same fund of good-nature, they would make the same application to their friends, if they have any.

There is in the *Menagiana*, a very pretty story of one of these angry gentlemen, which sets their extravagancy in a very ridiculous light.

Two gentlemen were riding together, one of whom, who was a choleric one, happened to be mounted on a high-mettled horse. The horse grew a little troublesome, at which the rider grew very angry, and whipped and spurred him with great fury ; to which the horse, almost as wrong-headed as his master, replied with kicking and plunging. The companion, concerned for the danger, and ashamed of the folly of his friend, said to him coolly : ‘ Be quiet, be quiet, and show yourself the wiser of the two.’

This sort of madness, for I can call it by no other name, flows from various causes, of which I shall now enumerate the most general.

Light unballasted heads are very apt to be over-set by every gust, or even breeze of passion ; they appreciate things wrong, and think every thing of importance but what really is so ; hence those frequent and sudden transitions from silly joy to sillier anger, according as the present silly humour is gratified or thwarted. This is the never-failing characteristic of the uneducated vulgar, who, often

in the same half-hour, fight with fury and shake hands with affection. Such heads give themselves no time to reason ; and, if you attempt to reason with them, they think you rally them, and resent the affront. They are, in short, overgrown children, and continue so to the most advanced age. Far be it from me to insinuate, what some ill-bred authors have bluntly asserted, that this is, in general, the case of the fairest part of our species, whose great vivacity does not always allow them time to reason consequentially, but hurries them into testiness by the least opposition to their will. But, at the same time, with all the partiality which I have for them, and nobody can have more than I have, I must confess that in all their debates, I have much more admired the copiousness of their rhetoric than the conclusiveness of their logic.

People of strong animal spirits, warm constitutions, and a cold genius, a most unfortunate and ridiculous, though common compound, are most irascible animals, and very dangerous in their wrath. They are active, puzzling, blundering, and petulantly enterprising and persevering. They are impatient of the least contradiction, having neither arguments nor words to reply with ; and the animal part of their composition bursts out into furious explosions, which have often mischievous consequences. Nothing is too outrageous or criminal for them to say or do in these fits ; but, as the beginning of their frenzy is easily discoverable by their glaring eyes, inflamed countenances, and rapid motions, the company, as conservators of the peace, which, by the way, every man is, till the authority of a magistrate can be procured, should forcibly seize those madmen, and confine them, in the mean time, to some dark closet, vault, or coal-hole.

Men of nice honour, without one grain of common honesty, for such there are, are wonderfully combustible. The honourable is to support and protect the dishonest part of their character. The consciousness of their guilt makes them both sore and jealous.

There is another very irascible sort of human animals, whose madness proceeds from pride. These are generally the people, who, having just fortunes sufficient to live idle and useless to society, create themselves gentlemen, and are scrupulously tender of the rank and dignity which they have not. They require the more respect, from being conscious that they have no right to any. They construe every thing into a slight, ask explanations with heat, and misunderstand them with fury. 'Who are you? What are you? Do you know who you speak to? I'll teach you to be insolent to a gentleman;'—are their daily idioms of speech, which frequently end in assault and battery, to the great emolument of the Round-house and Crown-office.

I have known many young fellows, who, at their first setting out in the world, or in the army, have simulated a passion which they did not feel, merely as an indication of spirit, which word is falsely looked upon as synonymous with courage. They dress and look fierce, swear enormously, and rage furiously, seduced by that popular word, spirit. But, I beg leave to inform these mistaken young gentlemen, whose error I compassionate, that the true spirit of a rational being consists in cool and steady resolution, which can only be the result of reflection and virtue.

I am very sorry to be obliged to own that there is not a more irritable part of the species than my brother authors. Criticism, censure, or even the

slightest disapprobation of their immortal works, excite their most furious indignation. It is true, indeed, that they express their resentment in a manner less dangerous both to others and to themselves. Like incensed porcupines, they dart their quills at the objects of their wrath. The wounds given by these shafts are not mortal, and only painful in proportion to the distance from whence they fly. Those which are discharged, as by much the greatest number are, from great heights, such as garrets or four-pair-of-stairs rooms, are puffed away by the wind, and never hit the mark ; but those which are let off from a first or second floor, are apt to occasion a little smarting, and sometimes festering, especially if the party wounded be unsound.

Our great Creator has wisely given us passions to rouse us into action, and to engage our gratitude to him by the pleasures they procure us ; but, at the same time, he has kindly given us reason sufficient, if we will but give that reason fair play, to control those passions ; and has delegated authority to say to them, as he said to the waters : ‘ Thus far shall ye go, and no further.’ The angry man is his own severest tormentor ; his breast knows no peace, while his raging passions are restrained by no sense of either religious or moral duties. What would be his case, if his unforgiving example, if I may use such an expression, were followed by his all-merciful Maker, whose forgiveness he can only hope for, in proportion as he himself forgives and loves his fellow-creatures ?

No. 197. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1756.

IF we give credit to the vulgar opinion, or even to the assertions of some reputable authors, both ancient and modern, poor human nature was not originally formed for keeping; every age has degenerated; and, from the fall of the first man, my unfortunate ancestor, our species has been tumbling on, century by century, from bad to worse, for about six thousand years.

Considering this progressive state of deterioration, it is a very great mercy that things are no worse with us at present; since, geometrically speaking, the human ought, by this time, to have sunk infinitely below the brute and the vegetable species, which are neither of them supposed to have dwindled or degenerated considerably, except in a very few instances; for it must be owned that our modern oaks are inferior to those of Dodona, our breed of horses to that of the Centaurs, and our breed of fowls to that of the Phœnixes.

But is this really the case? Certainly not. It is only one of those many errors which are artfully scattered by the designs of a few, and blindly adopted by the ignorance and folly of the many. The moving exclamations of—these sad times! this degenerate age! the affecting lamentations over declining virtue and triumphant vice, and the tender and final farewell bidden every day to unrewarded and discouraged public spirit, arts, and sciences, are the commonplace topics of the pride, the envy, and

the malignity of the human heart, that can more easily forgive, and even commend, antiquated and remote, than bear contemporary and contiguous merit. Men of these mean sentiments have always been the satirists of their own, and the panegyrists of former times. They give this tone, which fools, like birds in the dark, catch by ear, and whistle all day long.

As it has constantly been my endeavour to root out, if I could, or, if I could not, to expose the vices of the human heart, it shall be the object of this day's paper to examine this strange inverted entail of virtue and merit upwards, according to priority of birth, and seniority of age. I shall prove it to be forged, and, consequently, null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

If I loved to jingle, I would say that human nature has always been invariably the same, though always varying; that is, the same in substance, but varying in forms and modes, from many concurrent causes, of which, perhaps, we know but few. Climate, education, accident, severally contribute to change those modes; but, in all climates, and in all ages, we discover through them the same passions, affections, and appetites, and the same degree of virtues and vices.

This being unquestionably the true state of the case, which it would be endless to bring instances to prove from the histories of all times and of all nations, I shall, by way of warning to the incautious, and of reproof to the designing, proceed to explain the reasons which I have but just hinted at above, why the human nature of the time being has always been reckoned the worst and most degenerate.

Authors, especially poets, though great men, are,

alas ! but men ; and like other men, subject to the weaknesses of human nature, though, perhaps, in a less degree ; but it is, however, certain, that their breasts are not absolutely strangers to the passions of jealousy, pride, and envy. Hence it is that they are very apt to measure merit by the century, to love dead authors better than living ones, and to love them the better, the longer they have been dead. The Augustan age is, therefore, their favourite era, being at least seventeen hundred years distant from the present. That emperor was not only a judge of wit, but, for an emperor, a tolerable performer too ; and Mæcenas, his first minister, was both a patron and a poet ; he not only encouraged and protected, but fed and fattened men of wit at his own table, as appears from Horace ; no small encouragement for panegyric. Those were times, indeed, for genius to display itself in ! it was honoured, tasted, and rewarded. But now — *O tempora ! O mores !* One must, however, do justice to the authors who thus declaim against their own times, by acknowledging that they are seldom the aggressors ; their own times have commonly begun with them. It is their resentment, not their judgment, if they have any, that speaks this language. Anger and despair make them endeavour to lower that merit, which, till brought very low indeed, they are conscious they cannot equal.

There is another and more numerous set of much greater men, who still more loudly complain of the ignorance, the corruption, and the degeneracy of the present age. These are the consummate volunteer, but unregarded and unrewarded politicians, who, at a modest computation, amount to at least three millions of souls in this political country, and who are all of them both able and willing to steer

the great vessel of the state, and to take upon themselves the whole load of business and burden of employments, for the service of their dear country. The administration for the time being is always the worst, the most incapable, the most corrupt, that ever was, and negligent of every thing but their own interest. Where are now your Cecils and your Walsinghams? Those who ask that question could answer it, if they would speak out, Themselves; for they are all that and more too.

I stepped the other day, in order only to inquire how my poor country did, into a coffee-house, that is without dispute the seat of the soundest politics in this great metropolis, and sat myself down within ear-shot of the principal council-table. Fortunately for me, the president, a person of age, dignity, and becoming gravity, had just begun to speak. He stated, with infinite perspicuity and knowledge, the present state of affairs in other countries, and the lamentable situation of our own. He traced with his finger upon the table, by the help of some coffee which he had spilt in the warmth of his exordium, the whole course of the Ohio, and the boundaries of the Russian, Prussian, Austrian, and Saxon dominions; foresaw a long and bloody war upon the continent, calculated the supplies necessary for carrying it on, and pointed out the best methods of raising them, which, for that very reason, he intimated, would not be pursued. He wound up his discourse with a most pathetic peroration, which he concluded with saying, Things were not carried on in this way in Queen Elizabeth's days; the public was considered, and able men were consulted and employed. Those were days! 'Ay, Sir, and nights too, I presume,' said a young fellow who stood near him, 'some longer and some shorter, according to

the variation of the seasons ; pretty much like ours.' Mr. President was a little surprised at the suddenness and pertness of this interruption ; but recomposing himself, answered with that cool contempt that becomes a great man : ' I did not mean astronomical days, but political ones.' The young fellow replied : ' O then, Sir, I am your servant,' and went off in a laugh.

Thus informed and edified, I went off too, but could not help reflecting, in my way, upon the singular ill-luck of this my dear country, which, as long as ever I remember it, and as far back as I have read, has always been governed by the only two or three people, out of two or three millions, totally incapable of governing, and unfit to be trusted. But these reflections were soon interrupted by numbers of people, whom I observed crowding into a public-house. Among them I discovered my worthy friend and tailor, that industrious mechanic, Mr. Regnier. I applied to him to know the meaning of that concourse ; to which, with his usual humanity, he answered : ' We are the master-tailors, who are to meet to-night to consider what is to be done about our journeymen, who insult and impose upon us, to the great detriment of trade.' I asked him whether, under his protection, I might slip in and hear their deliberations. He said, yes, and welcome ; for that they should do nothing to be ashamed of. I profited of this permission, and following him into the room, found a considerable number of these ingenious artists assembled, and waiting only for the arrival of my friend, who it seems was too considerable for business to begin without him. He accordingly took the lead, opened the meeting with a very handsome speech, in which he gave many instances of the insolence, the unreasonableness, and the ex-

orbitant demands of the journeymen tailors; and concluded with observing, 'that if the government minded any thing nowadays but themselves, such abuses would not have been suffered; and had they been but attempted in Queen Elizabeth's days, she would have worked them with a witness.' Another orator then rose up to speak; but as I was sure that he could say nothing better than what had just fallen from my worthy friend, I stole off unobserved, and was pursuing my way home, when, in the very next street, I discovered a much greater number of people, though, by their dress, of seemingly inferior note, rushing into another public-house. As numbers always excite my curiosity almost as much as they mutually do each other's passions, I crowded in with them, in order to discover the object of this meeting, not without some suspicion that this frequent senate might be composed of the journeymen tailors, and convened in opposition to that which I had just left. My suspicion was soon confirmed by the eloquence of a journeyman, a finisher, I presume, who expatiated with equal warmth and dignity upon the injustice and oppression of the master-tailors, to the utter ruin of thousands of poor journeymen and their families; and concluded with asserting, 'it was a shame that the government and the parliament did not take notice of such abuses; and that had the master-tailors done these things in Queen Elizabeth's days, she would have mastered them with a vengeance, so she would.'

I confess I could not help smiling at this singular conformity of sentiments, and almost of expressions, of the master politicians, the master tailors, and the journeymen tailors. I am convinced that the two latter really and honestly believed what they said; it not being in the least improbable that their under-

standings should be the dupes of their interests ; but I will not so peremptorily answer for the interior conviction of the political orator ; though at the same time, I must do him the justice to say, he seemed full dull enough to be very much in earnest.

The several scenes of this day suggested to me, when I got home, various reflections, which perhaps I may communicate to my readers in some future paper.

No. 198. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1756.

—*Nemo in sese tentat descendere, nemo.*

PERS. SAT. iv. 23.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ I BEG your advice and assistance to enable me to get rid of one of the most impertinent companions that ever existed. I have tried every art and contrivance in my power to free myself from his odious conversation ; the creature will press upon my retirement, and force himself upon me in spite of my teeth ; though the *tête-à-tête* is always the most shocking and unmannerly you can possibly conceive. The thing is always meddling in my affairs in a manner to be quite intolerable ; always setting them in such a light, as cannot fail to put me out of humour ; and teasing me with reflections that make me weary of my life. I am sure I could more easily bear the spiteful tongues of twenty witty females at

a masquerade, than the impertinence of this animal for a quarter of an hour ; and, with concern, I find that the more pains I take to free myself from him, the more troublesome he grows.

“ Nor do I complain only for my own sake, but for the sakes of almost the whole circle of my acquaintance, as well female as male, who in general are pestered in a most unreasonable manner by this saucy intruder, whom all are forced to admit, though so few care for his company, and against whose presumption no rank or dignity, no quality or profession, can defend them. He will force himself into the closet, hover about the bed, and penetrate through the thickest darkness into the deepest recess ; will travel with us by sea and land, and follow the wretch into banishment. In vain does the statesman hug himself in the success of his unjust schemes, or exult in the gratification of his ambition or revenge ; unawed by his power, this haughty companion will check his career of transport, by placing before his eyes the instability of his situation, and the consequences of his actions. In vain does the flirt or coxcomb, when alone, endeavour to recollect, with pleasure, the *badinage* of the day ; the creature will disturb their most delightful reveries, and, by the magic of his intervention, convert all the imaginary *agrémens* into vanity, folly, and lost time. You cannot wonder, then, that so many avoid and fly him, and that the panic spread by him should extend itself far and wide ; nor can you be much amazed when I assure you, that it is no uncommon thing to see men of sense and courage fly from him without reason, and take refuge in those polite resorts, where dissipation, riot, and luxury, secure them from his visits, which they only decline because it is unfashionable to converse with him.

It is surprising what pains are continually taken, what contrivances have been used to get rid of this universal phantom. Some flatter him, some bully him, and some endeavour to impose upon him ; but he never fails to detect their frauds, and to resent them with severity.

“ The beaux and fine gentlemen seem to revere and adore him, pouring forth libations of sweet water, and offering him the incense of perfumes ; clothing him in dresses, elegant and expensive as those of our Lady of Loretto, practising every art of heathen or popish idolatry, even torturing themselves for his sake ; but all with no manner of success ; for the brute, in return, is so unsociable and disagreeable to the pretty creatures, as the most savage squire, or the most formal pedant ; so that, spite of their pretences, they are obliged to fly, as a plague, from what they appear most to admire. I cannot here omit a whimsical circumstance in this paradoxical character, that most people are reproached with loving him with the greatest partiality and fondness, and are greatly delighted to hear him praised, yet very few seek to come to the knowledge of him, or cultivate his acquaintance ; nay, the greater part try all possible means to avoid encountering him.

“ Our modern philosophers pretend, by their systems, to have silenced him, and, by that means, to have prevented his being troublesome to them or their acquaintance ; but how fallacious these pretences are, is plain from their avoiding all opportunities of being alone with him, and the confusion they express whenever, by unavoidable necessity, they are forced to it. Others, as he is a known enemy to the modern elegant tables, have exerted all the arts of the kitchen against him, lengthening the feast till

midnight to keep him off, but, like the reckoning, he appears when the banquet is over, reproaching the bounteous host with his profusion, and the pampered guest with his wanton satiety ; nay, so galling are his reprehensions, and so troublesome his intrusion, that there have not been wanting instances even in high life, of those who, not being able to keep him off otherways, have called in to their relief the halter, dagger, and pistol, and fairly removed themselves into another world to get rid of him ; though certain queer fellows pretend that they are bit, and that he has followed them even thither.

“ The fair sex, though generally favourable to the impertient, are so rudely attacked by this insolent intruder, that, to keep him off, they have been obliged to call in to their assistance the relief of routs, balls, assemblies, operas, gardens, and cards ; and all little enough for their protection. He might, indeed, pretend to some share of their favour, as, like themselves, he is a severe censurer of his acquaintance ; but there is this difference in their management, that the ladies are generally fondest of fixing their censure on the innocent, and their adversary is a judge that condemns none but the guilty. The buck and the sot seem to be least affected by his importunity ; as the one, from his natural insensibility, can attend to nothing, and the other is always asleep.

“ In this city, those of the middling rank converse with him pretty familiarly ; and the rich, to whom he might on some occasions prove troublesome, have a charm to keep him off. They place a number of bags, full of pieces of a particular metal, close together ; or, in their stead, some bits of paper, inscribed with certain cabalistical characters, which, with a Midas-like touch, they can transmute into gold. By the help of this charm, though they do

not entirely get rid of him, they become quite insensible to every thing he can suggest. But as these materials are not always at hand, or are applied to other uses by the politer part of mankind, this magic is not properly understood or practised at the other end of the town; though it is said that some particular persons there had tried it with a proper effect.

“Notwithstanding all I have advanced of this impertinent visitor, I cannot help owning that some have attempted to insinuate a better opinion of him. A certain old gentleman, for recommending his acquaintance, got the title of a wise man; a name at present but of small consideration; and I am told there never were but seven who were allowed that title. There are indeed some few persons of high rank of both sexes, that do vouchsafe to commune with him; but they are such sort of folks as are hardly fit to converse with any but one another; and very happily, one is seldom pestered with them at places of polite association; scarce a man among them knowing how to make a bet, to drink his third bottle, or that has spirit to aspire at the reputation of a *bonne fortune*. The ladies of this class are also so unfit for the conversation of the world, that not one in ten of them knows how to play a rubber at Whist, or dares to sit down to a party at Bragg.

“I have now, Sir, laid my complaints before you, and beg your advice how to get clear of my perplexity. My troublesome companion is, no doubt, too well known to you to require the insertion of his name; but as some of your readers, particularly females, may be subject to the frailty of forgetting their most intimate acquaintance, I will inform them that this ghastly phantom, that intrudes so impertinently upon all sorts of people, this creature

that we so seldom know what to do with, and wish so heartily to get rid of, is no other than one's self.

“I am, Sir,

“Yours, &c.,

“TIMOTHY LOITER.”

No. 199. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1756.

AN extravagant passion for collecting flowers, and which obtained the name of *tulipomania*, or tulip madness, is said to have become, not many years ago, the subject of a restrictive law in one of the most frugal countries in Europe.

Indeed, few nations or ages are without their madneses; and, as it is remarked by physicians, that every year has its peculiar disease, so we may observe that every country, in the course of less than half a century, has its peculiar mania.

At present, the political mania is pretty violent in these kingdoms; but I believe, upon a little attention, that we shall find the genteel mania to have a long while extended itself with the most general influence among us.

The mere word genteel seems to have had so singular an efficacy in the very sound of it, as to have done more to the confounding all distinctions, and promoting a levelling principle, than the philosophical reflections of the most profound teacher of republican maxims.

To do the genteel thing, to wear the genteel

thing, a genteel method of education and living, or a genteel way of becoming either a knave or a bankrupt, has ruined as many once worthy families as a plague or a civil war, and rooted out of this country more real virtues than can be replanted in it for many centuries.

A sense of duties in our several relations is prodigiously ungenteel. It is the prerogative of this age to do every thing in the genteelest manner. And though our ancestors were good honest people, yet to be sure their notions were very ungenteel. Nothing now seems duller than their apophthegms, and their reasoning is as unfashionable as the cut of their coats.

The imitating every station above our own, seems to be the first principle of the genteel mania, and operates with equal efficacy upon the tenth cousin of a woman of quality, and her acquaintance who retails gentility among her neighbours in the Borough.

So deeply are all ranks of people impressed with the genteel, that Mrs. Betty is of opinion that routs would be very genteel in the kitchen; and it is no surprising thing for a Monmouth-street broker to assure a basket-woman that the old gown he would sell to her is perfectly genteel.

This genteel disease shows itself under very different appearances. I have known a healthy young girl scarcely a fortnight in town, but it has affected her voice, distorted her countenance, and almost taken away the use of her limbs, attended with a constant giddiness of the head, and a restlessness of being long in a place; till at last, repeated colds caught at Vauxhall, a violent fever at a ridotto, something like a dropsy at a masquerade, and the smallpox in succession, with a general desertion of

admirers, have restored her to her senses, and her old aunts in the country.

Florio made a good figure in the university, as a sensible, sober young fellow, and an excellent scholar; till, unluckily for him, a scheme to town inspired him with the notions of gentility, usually contracted at the Shakspeare and a bagnio. Instead of his once rational friendships at the seats of literature, his passion now was to enjoy the vanity of walking arm in arm with right honourables in all public places; to his former acquaintance, if it was sometimes impossible to avoid the meeting such disagreeable people, he scarce condescended to bow, and nothing under the heir apparent of an earl could make him tolerably civil. In a short time he became, at the tavern of the first fashions, the principal judge of true relish, and the umpire of debates in every party at Whist. His equipage, house, and liveries were the model of gentility, to men who had less genius for invention, though more fortune than himself; till, having reduced the little patrimony left him by a frugal father, he was cured of the genteel by a proper regimen in the Fleet.

Dick Ledger was a plain honest man; his ancestors had been tradesmen for five generations, and, to the fortune which they had already accumulated for him, Dick, by his industry, had added about ten thousand pounds; when, unfortunately, the symptoms of the genteel mania appeared in the family. Mrs. Ledger's head was first turned, immediately after her paying a visit to a very distant relation of fashion at the other end of the town. Her daughter soon caught the infection; and it was unanimously determined by the voice of the whole family, notwithstanding Mr. Ledger's opinion to the contrary, that it was right for a woman, in her situation, to

make some appearance; that it was Mr. Ledger's duty, if he had any regard for her and his children, to live a little genteel, and introduce his family properly into life. That it was very absurd in Mr. Ledger to think of making Tommy a soap-boiler, and that a lad of his parts should be brought up to some genteel profession. The result of these important deliberations was a coach and four horses, as many footmen, a fine seat in the country, and a town house in Grosvenor Square for the residence of Mrs. Ledger.

Tommy, after taking lodgings for one year in the politest college at Oxford, spending there five hundred pounds, and becoming a perfect adept in tennis, set out upon his travels under the care of a French *valet de chambre*, to learn the Norman accomplishments at Caen; and at length, having left his modesty at Paris, his sobriety in Germany, his morality at Venice, and all religion at Rome, he returned, neither fit for a soap-boiler nor a gentleman, with too much pride for the former, and too little improvement for the latter. The sum of all was, that the reputation of the young ladies became somewhat equivocal, and Mrs. Ledger herself was thought to be no better than she should be. Mr. Ledger soon after saw his name among the numerous list of bankrupts in the gazette. However, by returning into the air of the city, he quickly grew better, but it is thought that Mrs. Ledger will never recover.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ I have a brother at Cambridge, who is a scholar, which I am not, because I am eldest. While he is writing a learned history of the fashions of the past

ages in polite antiquity, I am here in town inventing new ones for the ornament of the present. He has studied whole volumes as big as church bibles, about the shape of the Roman shoes, the half-moons upon senatorial buskins, and the grasshopper pompoons worn by the ladies at Athens. Being well acquainted with busts and coins, he has settled, with great critical exactness, the origin of head-dresses, and the chronology of periwigs; and he says that he is now at last, after several years meditation and reading, able to convince the world that caps and lappets were invented by the Egyptians, and that the Greeks used paste in dressing the hair. As to myself, I am the first man who introduced the long walking-sticks. As soon as the public comes into my fashions I quit them, and generally have the distance of the smartest young fellows about town, in the novelty of my habit. I intend to introduce roll-up stockings and high heels this winter; by the following winter, if the mode should take, then I shall wear no heels at all, and a pair of trunk hose, like my grandfather's picture in our great hall in the country. An old gentleman, with whom I condescend now and then to converse, who, by the bye is my father, often remonstrates to me what a mad way of dressing I am got into. I answer, that I wonder he should reprove me, when he himself is a fop but of twenty years' standing; and, as my acquaintance assure me that I have the genteelest fancy in the world, pray now, come and see me at George's, for you will easily know me, and tell me if you don't think so.

“Yours,

“NICHOLAS NOVEL.”

ADVERTISEMENT.

This is to acquaint those who are inclined to encourage every polite attempt in this nation, that an academy will shortly be opened at a proper distance from the city, calculated in the genteelest taste for the reception of persons who would choose to be fashionable. None whose families are in trade will be admitted, but the best company only. The price of boarding is a hundred guineas a quarter, and every thing else in proportion. All personal accomplishments are taught in the same manner as abroad, and great care will be taken to inspire them with the genteelest sentiments upon all subjects, whether political, moral, or religious. As to the latter, the young gentlemen may be brought up in any way their friends think most convenient. Several phaetons and curricles will be kept for their amusement; and as the conversation of ladies is so necessary to form the *douceur* of their manners, the *agréments* of such a society will not be wanting. A gentleman, who has studied under Mr. Hoyle, will teach them to play at cards gratis.

N. B. Judges, bishops, or any great officers that happen to be a little awkward in their address, may have an opportunity of learning to dance privately, or shall be waited upon at home, if they desire it.

No. 200. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1756.

Δεινόν τι τὸ μηχανόεν
Τέχνας ὑπὲρ ἐλπίδ' ἔχων.

SOPH.

Stabunt et Parii lapides, spirantia signa.

VIRG. GEORG. iii. 34.

I AM indebted to a very ingenious correspondent at Cambridge for the following ode, which, in justice to its merit, and for the entertainment of those of my readers who have a true taste for poetical composition, I have taken the first opportunity to make public.

AN ODE ON SCULPTURE.

Led by the muse, my step pervades
The sacred haunts, the peaceful shades,
Where Art and Sculpture reign:
I see, I see, at their command,
The living stones in order stand,
And marble breathe through every vein!
Time breaks his hostile scythe; he sighs
To find his power malignant fled;
'And what avails my dart,' he cries,
'Since these can animate the dead?
Since waked to mimic life, again in stone
The patriot seems to speak, the hero frown?'

There Virtue's silent train are seen,
Fast fix'd their looks, erect their mien.
Lo! while with more than stoic soul,
The Attie Sage * exhausts the bowl,
A pale suffusion shades his eyes,
Till by degrees the marble dies!

* Socrates, who was condemned to die by poison.

See there the injured Poet * bleed!
 Ah! see he droops his languid head!
 What starting nerves, what dying pain,
 What horror freezes every vein!
 These are thy works, O Sculpture! thine to show
 In rugged rock a feeling sense of woe.

Yet not alone such themes demand
 The Phydian stroke, the Dædal hand;
 I view with melting eyes
 A softer scene of grief display'd,
 While from her breast the duteous maid
 Her Infant Sire with food supplies.
 In pitying stone she weeps to see
 His squalid hair and galling chains;
 And trembling, on her bended knee,
 His hoary head her hand sustains;
 While every look, and sorrowing feature prove,
 How soft her breast, how great her filial love.

Lo! there the wild Assyrian Queen,†
 With threat'ning brow, and frantic mien!
 Revenge! revenge! the marble cries,
 While fury sparkles in her eyes.
 Thus was her awful form beheld,
 When Babylon's proud sons rebell'd;
 She left the woman's vainer care,
 And flew with loose dishevell'd hair;
 She stretch'd her hand, imbrued in blood,
 While pale sedition trembling stood;
 In sudden silence, the mad crowd obey'd
 Her awful voice, and Stygian Discord fled.

With hope, or fear, or love, by turns,
 The marble leaps, or shrinks, or burns,
 As Sculpture waves her hand:
 The varying passions of the mind,
 Her faithful handmaids are assign'd,
 And rise or fall by her command.

* Seneca, born at Corduba, who, according to Pliny, was orator, poet, and philosopher. He bled to death in the bath.

† Semiramis, cum ei circa cultum capitis sui occupatæ nunciatum esset Babylonein defecisse; alterâ parte crinium adhuc solutâ protinus ad eam expugnandam cucurrit; nec prius decorem capillorum in ordinem, quàm tantam urbem in potestatem suam redegit: quocirca statua ejus Babylone posita est, &c. Val. Max. de Ira.

When now life's wasted lamps expire,
When sinks to dust this mortal frame,
She, like Prometheus, grasps the fire;
Her touch revives the lambent flame;
While, Phoenix-like, the statesman, bard, or sage,
Springs fresh to life, and breathes through ev'ry age.

Hence, where the organ full and clear,
With loud hosannas charms the ear,
Behold, a prison within his hands,
Absorb'd in thought, great Newton * stands!
Such was his solemn, wonted state,
His serious brow, and musing gait,
When, taught on eagle's wings to fly,
He traced the wonders of the sky,
The chambers of the sun explored,
Where tints of thousand hues are stored;
Whence every flower in painted robes is drest,
And varying Iris steals her gaudy vest.

Here, as Devotion, heavenly queen,
Conducts her best, her favourite train,
At Newton's shrine they bow;
And while with raptured eyes they gaze,
With Virtue's purest vestal rays,
Behold their ardent bosoms glow!
Hail, mighty mind! Hail, awful name!
I feel inspired my labouring breast;
And lo! I pant, I burn for fame!
Come, Science, bright ethereal guest;
Oh! come, and lead thy meanest, humblest son,
Through Wisdom's arduous paths, to fair renown!

Could I to one faint ray aspire,
One spark of that celestial fire,
The leading Cynosure, that glow'd
While Smith explored the dark abode,
Where Wisdom sat on Nature's shrine,
How great my boast! what praise were mine!
Illustrious sage! who first couldst tell
Wherein the powers of Music dwell;
And every magic chain untie,
That binds the soul of harmony!
To Thee, when mouldering in the dust,
To Thee shall swell the breathing bust:
Shall here, for this reward thy merits claim,
'Stand next in place to Newton, as in fame.'

* A noble statue of Sir Isaac Newton, erected in Trinity-college Chapel, by Doctor Smith.

No. 201. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1756.

OF all the improvements in polite conversation, I know of nothing that is half so entertaining and significant as the *double entendre*. It is a figure in rhetoric, which owes its birth, as well as its name, to our inventive neighbours, the French ; and is that happy art, by which persons of fashion may communicate the loosest ideas under the most innocent expressions. The ladies have adopted it for the best reason in the world ; they have long since discovered, that the present fashionable display of their persons is by no means a sufficient hint to the men that they mean any thing more than to attract their admiration ; the *double entendre* displays the mind in an equal degree, and tells us from what motives the lure of beauty is thrown out. It is an explanatory note to a doubtful text, which renders the meaning so obvious, that even the dullest reader cannot possibly mistake it. For though the *double entendre* may sometimes admit of a moral interpretation as well as a wanton one, it is never intended to be understood but one way ; and he must be a simple fellow indeed, and totally unacquainted with good company, who does not take it as it was meant.

But it is one thing to invite the attacks of men, and another to yield to them ; and it is by no means a necessary implication, that because a lady chooses to dress and talk like a woman of the town, she must needs act like one. I will be bold to assert

that the contrary happens at least ten or a dozen times within the space of a twelvemonth ; nay, I am almost inclined to believe, that when an enterprising young fellow, who, from a lady's displaying her beauties in public to the utmost excess of the mode, and suiting her language to her dress, is apt to fancy himself sure of her at a *tête-à-tête*, it is not above four to one but he may meet with a repulse. Those liberties, indeed, which are attended with no ruinous contingencies, he may reasonably claim, and expect always to be indulged in ; as the refusal of them would argue the highest degree of prudery, a foible, which, in this age of nature and freedom, the utmost malice of the world cannot lay to the charge of a woman of condition ; but it does not absolutely follow, that because she is good-humoured enough to grant every liberty but one, she must refuse nothing.

It may possibly be objected that there is neither good-breeding nor generosity in a lady's inviting a man to a feast, when she only means to treat him with the garnish ; but she is certainly mistress of her own entertainment, and has a right to keep those substantials under cover, which she has no mind he should help himself to. A hungry glutton may, as the phrase is, eat her out of house and home ; and if he will not be satisfied with whips and creams, he may carry his voraciousness to more liberal tables. A young lady of economy will admit no such persons to her entertainments ; they are a set of robust unmannerly creatures, who are perpetually intruding themselves upon the hospitable and the generous, and tempting them to those costly treats, that have in the end undone them, and compelled them ever after to keep ordinaries for their support.

From this consideration, it were heartily to be wished that the ladies could be prevailed upon to give fewer invitations in public places ; since the most frugal of them cannot always answer for her own economy ; and it is well known that the profusion of one single entertainment has compelled many a beautiful young creature to hide herself from the world for whole months after. As for married ladies indeed, who have husbands to bear the burden of such entertainments, and rich widows who can afford them, something may be said ; but while gluttons may be feasted liberally at such tables, and while there are public ordinaries in almost every parish of this metropolis, a single lady may beg to be excused.

But, to return particularly to my subject. The *double entendre* is at present so much the taste of all genteel companies, that there is no possibility either of being polite or entertaining without it. That it is easily learnt is the happy advantage of it ; for as it requires little more than a mind well stored with the most natural ideas, every young lady of fifteen may be thoroughly instructed in the rudiments of it from her book of novels, or her waiting-maid. But to be as knowing as her mamma in all the refinements of the art, she must keep the very best company, and frequently receive lessons in private from a male instructor. She should also be careful to minute down in her pocket-book the most shining sentiments that are toasted at table ; that when her own is called for, she may not be put to the blush from having nothing to say that would occasion a modest woman to blush for her. Of all the modern inventions to enliven conversation, and promote freedom between the sexes, I know of nothing that can compare with these

sentiments ; and I may venture to affirm, without the least flattery to the ladies, that they are by no means inferior to the men in the happy talent of conveying the archest ideas imaginable in the most harmless words, and of enforcing those ideas by the most significant looks.

There is, indeed, one inconvenience attending the *double entendre*; which I do not remember to have heard taken notice of. This inconvenience is the untoward effect that it is apt to have upon certain discreet gentlewomen who pass under the denomination of old maids. As these grave personages are generally remarked to have the quickest conceptions, and as they have once been shocked by what they call the indelicacy of this figure, they are ever afterwards carrying it in their minds, and converting every thing they hear into wantonness and indecency. To ask them what o'clock it is, may be an ensnaring question ; to pull off your gloves in their presence, is beginning to undress ; to make them a bow, may be stooping for an immodest purpose ; and to talk of bedtime, is too gross to be endured. I have known one of these ladies to be so extremely upon her guard, that having dropped her gold watch-case in a public walk, and being questioned by a gentleman who took it up, whether it was hers or not, was so alarmed at the indecency of throwing aside her apron to examine, that she flew from him with precipitation, suffering him to put it into his pocket and go fairly off with it.

This false modesty, which most evidently owes its birth to the *double entendre*, is a degree of impudence that the other cannot match. The possessors of it have unfortunately discovered that the most immodest meanings may be couched under very innocent expressions ; and having been once put into

a loose train of thinking, they are perpetually revolving in their minds every gross idea that words can be made to imply. They would not pronounce the names of certain persons of their acquaintance for the whole world, and are almost shocked to death at the sight of a woman with child, as it suggests to their minds every idea of sensuality.

It will doubtless be very astonishing to the reader to be told, that even the purity of my own writings has not at all times exempted me from the censure of these maiden gentlewomen. The Nan-kin breeches of poor Patrick the footman, in No. 130 of these papers, have given inconceivable offence. The word breeches, it seems, is so outrageously indecent, that a modest woman cannot bring herself to pronounce it even when alone. I must therefore in all future impressions of this work, either dismiss the said Patrick from his service, or direct him to wait upon his ladies without any breeches at all. Other complaints of the like nature have also been brought against me, which, conscious as I am of the purity of my intentions, have piqued me not a little. It is from these complaints that I have entered at present upon the subject of this paper, which I cannot conclude without expressing some little dislike to the *double entendre* ; since with all the pleasantry and merriment it occasions, it has produced this false modesty, which, in my humble opinion, is impudence itself.

No. 202. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1756.

Th' adorning thee with so much art
Is but a needless skill.

COWLEY.

It is a general observation, that the character and disposition of every man may, in some degree, be guessed at from the formation and turn of his features ; or, in other words, that the face is an index of the mind. This remark is certainly not without foundation ; nevertheless, as men do not make themselves, but yet are masters of their wills and actions, frequent instances happen, in which this rule is found to fail, and appearances contradict reality.

I have often thought that a surer way might be found of discovering the secret notions and bias of each person ; and that if instead of consulting the physiognomy, we were to have recourse to such things as are the immediate objects of choice and fancy, we should arrive at a truer knowledge of the person who adopts them. The best clue we can lay hold of for this purpose is, in my opinion, the different modes of covering and adorning the body, or whatever is comprised under the idea of dress. The Spanish proverb says : ' Tell me what books a man reads, and what company he keeps, and I will tell you what manner of man he is.' It may be said, with equal propriety : ' Tell me how such a person dresses, and I will tell you what he is.' In fact, nature herself, by the appurtenances and ornaments

which she bestows on different animals, seems to shadow and point out their latent qualities. Who can see the peacock strut and spread his gaudy train, without conceiving an idea of the pride and vanity of that fop among birds? The lion, wrapped up in the majesty of his mane, fills us with notions of the grandeur and nobleness of its nature. It is the same with men. What nature gives to irrational animals, man, by the help of art, supplies to himself; and, in the choice and arrangement of his dress, speaks his real notions and sentiments.

In a theatre, which is the glass of fashion, and the picture of the world, it is well known that a strict attention is always paid to what is called the dressing of the characters. The miser has his threadbare coat; the fop his gray powder, *solitaire*, and red heel; each character hanging out a sign, as it were, in his dress, which proclaims to the audience the nature of his part, even before he utters a word. The impression which this outward appearance makes upon the mind, is so strong, that states and governments have availed themselves of it for good and wise purposes. It is certain that the ignorant and vulgar part of mankind are most easily captivated by what strikes the sight. Love, it is said, enters in at the eyes; and I am apt to think, that most of the other passions enter into the mind through the same passage. Hence the necessity of applying to this sense; and hence the origin of dress, and the pomp of kings, magistrates and others, calculated, according to Milton, only to

Dazzle the crowd, and set them all agape.

Among the numberless instances that might be brought in proof of this assertion, I have however

remarked one, in which the means do not seem to me to answer the end proposed, or at least that ought to be proposed by them. The instance I mean is the regimentals now worn in the army. One would imagine, from contemplating the profession of a soldier, that whatever could most contribute towards giving an intrepid masculine air and look, whatever could impress on the spectator's mind an idea of courage, fortitude, and strength, would be deemed most proper to furnish out the appearance of those who devote themselves to all the toils, fatigues, and dangers of war. And yet, who will say that our troops speak their profession in any degree by their dress? The red, indeed, in which they are clothed, as it conveys the idea of blood, and appears as if stained with the colours of their trade, is most certainly proper. But what shall we say for all the other articles of their dress? Who that sees any of them so elaborately and splendidly equipped in all their trappings, would not be more apt to think, by their appearance, that they were going to grace some public festival, or to assist at some joyful ceremony, than that they were men set apart to combat with every hardship, and to stand in the rough front of war? When Cræsus, the Lydian king, displayed his heaps of treasure to Solon, the philosopher told him, that whoever had more iron, would soon be master of all his gold; intimating that show and pomp were of no account, compared to what was really useful, and that riches in themselves were of no value. To adapt this to our present purpose, would not a sort of dress, calculated to help and defend the wearer, or annoy the enemy, be more serviceable than all the pride and tinsel that runs through the army, from the general to the private man?

The ancient rude Britons seem to have had a better taste, or at least more meaning in their method of adorning themselves, than their polished descendants. As they were all soldiers, Cæsar tells us, they used to paint their bodies in such a manner as they conceived would make them appear terrible to their foes. Instead of powdering and curling their hair, they wore it loose, like the old Spartans, who always combed it down to its full extent; and as the admirable author of Leonidas expresses it, 'clothed their necks with terror.' For my own part, I cannot look on our troops, powdered and curled with so much exactness, without applying Falstaff's expression, and thinking, indeed, that they are food for powder. Nor can I behold the lace, and all the waste of finery in their clothing, but in the same light that I survey the silver plates and ornaments of a coffin; indeed, I am apt to impute their going to battle so trim and adorned, to the same reason that the fine lady painted her cheeks just before she expired, that she might not be frightful when she was dead. To ask a plain question, Where is the need of all this finery? 'Will it, as Falstaff says of honour, set a leg? No. Or an arm? No. Or heal the grief of a wound? No. It has then no skill in surgery, and is a mere scutcheon.'

When I consider the brilliant, but defenceless state, in which our troops go to battle, I cannot help wondering at the extraordinary courage they have always shown; and am pleased to find that they unite in their persons the ancient and modern signification of the word brave, which implied formerly only finery or ornament, but, in its present acceptance, means courage and resolution. They are, indeed, both brave and fine; brave as it is possible

for men to be, but finer than it is necessary for soldiers to be; so that what Cæsar said of his troops, may with great justice be applied to ours: *Etiam unguentatos bene pugnare posse*; 'in spite of their finery and perfumes, they are brave fellows, and will fight.'

I have been led to consider this subject by a short copy of verses lately sent me by a friend, presenting a picture of a modern warrior preparing for battle. Homer and Virgil described their heroes arming for the fight; but my friend exhibits his hero dressing for the fight; it being observable, he says, that our military gentlemen use, at present, no more armour in the day of battle than they do when they go to church, or pay a visit to a mistress.

THE MODERN WARRIOR.

The trumpet sounds. To war the troops advance,
Adorn'd and trim, like females to the dance.
Proud of the summons to display his might,
The gay Lothario dresses for the fight.
Studious in all the splendour to appear,
Pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war!
His well-turn'd limbs the different garbs infold,
Form'd with nice art, and glittering all with gold.
Across his breast the silken sash is tied,
Behind the shoulder-knot displays its pride;
Glittering with lace, the hat adorns his head,
Graced and distinguish'd by the smart cockade:
Conspicuous badge! which only heroes wear,
Ensign of war, and favourite of the fair.
The graceful queue his braided tresses binds,
And every hair in its just rank confines.
Each taper leg the snowy gaiters deck,
And the bright gorget dangles from his neck.
Dress'd *cap-à-pie*, all lovely to the sight,
Stands the gay warrior, and expects the fight.
Rages the war; fell Slaughter stalks around,
And stretches thousands breathless on the ground:
Down sinks Lothario, sent by one dire blow,
A well-dress'd hero, to the shades below.

Thus the young victim, pamper'd and elate,
To some resplendent fane is led in state,
With garlands crown'd, through shouting crowds proceeds,
And, dress'd in fatal pomp, magnificently bleeds.

No. 203. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1756.

WHILST the generality of moralists maintain the utility of the passions, the generality of men complain of their inconveniency. For, though speculation can easily confine them to proper objects, restrain them within proper bounds, and make them assistant and subservient to the greatest purposes, experience finds them impatient of the rein, and we are hurried by them into every kind of extravagance. In like manner, bachelors lay down incomparable rules for the government of a wife, which the husband, whose province is *Οὐ γνῶσις ἀλλὰ πράξις*, not theory, but practice, may find extremely defective in the day of trial. The truth is, that no schemes can be formed, no directions can be delivered for the conduct of the passions, without a previous knowledge of their nature, the various circumstances that may excite them, and the strength they exert in every individual. Speculation may in some measure prepare, but can never sufficiently provide for practice. Thus, a moralist may prescribe patience in the case of pain; but, if the anguish arise from an author's reading his own works, a patient ear, however useful in general, will serve only to aggravate the misery, and, perhaps, render it insupportable. And, indeed, such means as these will always

be found either useless or fatal, for they will either have no effect upon the passion, or totally destroy it. Let us try, therefore, to find an expedient which shall preserve and nourish these elements of life, and, at the same time, prevent those evils which are so justly apprehended, and so frequently felt from them.

Aristotle has long ago observed that poetry is more philosophical than history; and Horace has not scrupled to prefer Homer to the philosophers themselves, even in points of instruction; in which all sensible men must unanimously concur. For the passions being a poet's peculiar province, he must, indisputably, be best acquainted with their nature, and best qualified to direct them. From the poets, therefore, we may expect information; and, if I am not much mistaken, every tragic writer will furnish us with the expedient we want. For there is scarce a single tragedy in which the passions of the hero have not full play, and yet, by the substitution of proper objects, are artfully diverted from the production of those mischiefs that usually attend them. To instance, in the tragedy of *Fatal Constancy*; the hero, suspecting the cruelty of his mistress, or rather her obedience to her father, falls, with the greatest propriety, into the passion of anger, which thus bursts forth:—

Cursed be the treacherous sex, cursed be the hour,
Cursed be the world and every thing—but her!

Upon such a provocation as this, it was absolutely impossible to have prevented the passion; the poet, therefore, gives it free indulgence; and, to avert the fatal effects it might have upon the lady, as the immediate cause, or upon the more remote one, her father, he supposes it employed in execrations against the sex in general, the hour, the world, and,

in short, against every thing but his mistress. Now, this artifice may, I think, be very advantageously removed from the stage to the world, from fictitious to real persons, as appears from the conduct of gamesters, who, in an ill-run, will, with the greatest vehemence, curse their fortune or their cards ; and, having vented their anger, will play on with the utmost composure and resignation, and be perfectly agreeable to their adversaries.

The ancients make mention of one Philoxenus, a celebrated eater, who, instead of making his rivals at the table the objects of his passion, envied cranes for their length of neck ; the short duration of pleasure being the only defect of his enjoyment. Mr. Pope, too, takes notice of a reverend sire,

Who envied every sparrow that he saw.

I produce these instances merely to show the possibility of an innocent exercise of the passions, which must be employed to prevent a stagnation in the mind, and, by these means, may be indulged without injury to others. Thus, rural 'squires, who are pure followers of nature, to keep their dogs and themselves in breath, trail herrings along the road, when the season will not admit of real business.

But, to remove all doubts concerning the possibility of this method, and, at the same time, to show its utility, I must introduce St. Austin to my readers. It is well known that the prevailing passion of this saint was love, and that an habitual indulgence had rendered it too formidable for a regular attack. He therefore engaged, by stratagem, where his utmost strength was ineffectual, and, by forming a woman of snow for his embraces, secured his own character, and the honour of his fair disciples, from those devastations to which they must otherwise have been fatally exposed.

An example like this is, I think, sufficient to confirm the principles, and recommend the practice of substituting objects for the exercise of the passions; but, lest difficulties should arise from the choice, I shall point out such as will best correspond with some particular passions, that we may from thence be enabled to judge what will best suit with the rest. To begin with what is most important and most prevailing, Love. Should a young lady find herself unfortunately exposed to the unruliness of this passion, either by nature or education, by too close an attention to the study of romance, or too strong a confidence in the conversation of her friends, her condition must be very deplorable; for indulgence, the most obvious expedient, is prohibited by custom; opposition would always be found ridiculous, often impracticable, and sometimes fatal; and should she follow the example of poor Viola in Shakspeare,

—who never told her love,
But let concealment, like a worm i' th' bud,
Feed on her damask cheek;—

her case must be desperate, indeed; for the destruction of her charms would infallibly destroy the very means of happiness, and make her fit only for the incurables of a convent, for which our Protestant country has not yet thought proper to provide. Now, all these inconveniences will be removed by substituting some other object to engross their affection. Thus, a lapdog, a squirrel, or a parrot, may relieve her distress, by being admitted to her bosom, and receiving those *douceurs* and caresses which her passion prompts her to bestow upon her lover. It is certain that the celebrated Antonia escaped the fatal effects of this passion, and preserved her character untainted amidst the scandals and corruption

of the worst of courts, by fixing her affection upon a lamprey. In vain did the beaux of Rome offer up their vows ; her tenderness was devoted to her favourite fish, on which she doted to that degree, that she fondly adorned it with her choicest earrings.

But, if this method should not sufficiently answer the great purpose of giving exercise to the passion, I cannot forbear the mention of one more, and that is cards. A *parti carrè* at Cribbage or Whist will give full scope to the restlessness of its nature, and enable the fair female to indulge it in all its stages ; for every deal will excite her affection or her anger ; will inflame her jealousy, or restore her ease ; will give her all the pangs of disappointment, or furnish the silent transports of success.

What has been hitherto proposed is designed for the unmarried ladies ; the situation and circumstances of a wife being, in some respects different, may require a different treatment. If, therefore, what is here prescribed prove ineffectual, she may have recourse to St. Austin's remedy, which is always at hand ; for, by fixing her affections upon her husband, she may convert a lump of snow into a lover, and have the saint's exquisite pleasure of a mortifying indulgence.

I would now proceed to the other passions, and lay down rules for their regulation, did I not think it absolutely unnecessary ; for several of them, such as shame, fear, &c., are become obsolete, and consequently unknown. Others may be constantly employed upon husbands, friends, and dependents ; for these objects occur upon every occasion, and an ill choice can scarcely be made. Thus, if anger be the passion of the day, a lady need not be told that she may exert it with the greatest safety and

satisfaction upon a husband or a servant. Or, should the fair one be under the influence of pride, on whom can it be exercised with greater propriety than upon a female friend, especially if poverty has reduced her to a state of indigence and dependence? For fortune has plainly marked such creatures for the use and amusement of her favourites.

No. 204. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1756.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ THE season is now approaching when the wisdom of the nation provides the supplies necessary for the support of government. The two great questions commonly debated on such occasions, are the wherefore and the how. The wherefore, as the politician in the *Rehearsal* says, answers itself; but then as to the *quomodo*, or the how, here the invention of the ingenious lover of his country may without offence, be exerted.

“ Certain unsubsidized pamphleteers have thought proper to observe, that scarcely a single tax can be devised which has not been already imposed, in order to strip this beggarly nation, as they are pleased to call it, even of its rags; for, if we credit these gentlemen, the nation does, indeed, hang in tatters, and we must expect, very speedily, to hear Britannia crying out with a most lamentable voice in the streets: ‘ Pray, your honour, do, good your

honour, one single farthing to a poor distressed gentlewoman, with a great charge of helpless children.'

"A certain emperor is reported to have offered a reward to any one who should discover a new species of pleasure ; and it is hoped that, in imitation of that emperor, the ministry will make some promises to any one who shall invent a new tax.

"For my own part, I flatter myself that I have discovered some methods of raising money by taxes, which have hitherto escaped the researches of projectors and politicians ; but however various my ways and means may be, I shall content myself at present with communicating only one of my schemes, that, from the reception it meets with from those in power, I may be tempted either to conceal or make public the rest.

"There is a certain species of conversation, which is commonly termed the saying of good things. In this commodity almost everybody deals. The cheesemonger's wife at a gossiping, and the haberdasher at the club, say good things as well as their betters, during the short intervals from Whist. This commodity has hitherto escaped the observation of the legislature ; and yet no sufficient reason appears why a tax may not be imposed upon every good thing which shall be said, uttered, or spoken, from and after Lady-day next.

"It will possibly be objected, that some difficulties may occur as to the proper methods of levying this tax. The officers of the revenue, it may be said, cannot be supposed proper judges of what is, and what is not, a good thing ; and an appeal to the quarter-sessions in all probability would not much mend the matter. To this it may be answered, that in the case before us. the user or consumer may be safely trusted on his bare affirmation ; an indulgence

which I should very unwillingly recommend on any other occasion. The method I would propose, is, that every person who says a good thing, shall have a certificate thereof on stamp paper, for which certificate the sum of two shillings and sixpence only shall be exacted; provided always, that he who says a very good thing, may for such very good thing demand a certificate as aforesaid, on payment of five shillings in manner aforesaid.

“It may be further objected, as this tax is proposed to extend to the writing, as well as saying good things, that it will be of inexpressible detriment to many professed authors. Their interest and their vanity will incline them to contribute largely to the stamp duty; but it cannot, in reason, be expected that they should ever be able to raise a single half-crown for the purchase of a certificate. My intention, Mr. Fitz-Adam, is not to injure these gentlemen. I pity poor authors with all my heart. They ‘who cannot dig, and who, to beg, are ashamed,’ must write; far be it from me therefore to deprive them of an ingenious livelihood. To quiet their minds, I humbly propose that they shall not be obliged to tax themselves, but that their readers shall tax them for every good thing which they may chance to publish. Thus will the tax become no intolerable grievance; indeed, it will be scarcely felt, unless false English, low wit, and licentious scurrility be declared good things by public authority. All that I entreat is, that as I leave them the liberty of writing what they please, they will also allow me the liberty of reading what I please. By this means we shall have little intercourse, and consequently little occasion for quarrel.

“This tax will, indeed, fall somewhat heavy upon you, Mr. Fitz-Adam; but, in times of danger and

difficulty, every man must contribute according to his ability to the necessities of his country. However, to make this matter easy, I am willing to yield you the whole honour of my invention; and I doubt not but you may obtain a saving clause, empowering you to write good things without the expense of a certificate.

“We are all of us apt to show some degree of partiality to our own children; and this may, perhaps, induce me to be overfond of my present project. Yet the most impartial must acknowledge that no tax can be more extensive, or be levied with greater ease to the public and the subject. It will therefore afford me the highest satisfaction to see this my darling scheme enforced by the wisdom of the legislature. I can already, in imagination, rejoice over some future resolution of the honourable house, conceived in words to the following effect:—

“‘Resolved, That the sum of one million sterling be raised by way of lottery on annuities payable out of the produce of the tax upon good things.’

“It would be no less agreeable to me to read a paragraph in the London Evening Post, or some other loyal paper, importing that ‘this day the worshipful company of Fishmongers dined together at their hall in Thames Street, where the tax upon good things said after dinner amounted to four hundred and ten pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence, being the largest sum which had ever been collected on that occasion.’

“I make no doubt but that great sums might be expected on this account from the common halls of our two learned universities; not to say any thing of the laudable society of Anti-Gallicans, the vene-

rable order of Freemasons, and the numerous fraternities of bucks, bloods, and choice spirits.

“It may possibly be insinuated that France will endeavour to avail itself of our example, and impose likewise a tax upon good things ; but as freedom of speech is greatly restrained in all absolute monarchies, we have nothing to fear from such an attempt. Here then we shall be unrivalled, and shall be able for once to boast, with justice, that we have outwitted our enemies.

“If it should still further be objected to this tax, that it will be a partial one, and grievously burdensome to the poor wit, while the rich alderman, the justice of the quorum, and the fine gentleman, will be totally exempted from it ; I answer, that in these public-spirited times, and upon this particular occasion, every man will be ambitious of contributing his quota, whether he can be legally taxed or not ; nay, I am humbly of opinion, that those who say the fewest good things, will generously make their demands upon the stamp-office for the greatest number of certificates.

“I had once entertained thoughts of extending my project to the good things that people do as well as say ; but, upon consulting a few friends upon the matter, I was convinced that the benefits arising from such an addition would be too inconsiderable to be felt. I have therefore, for the good of my poor country, and the ease of those in power, made what haste I could to communicate my scheme as it now is, which I desire you to publish as soon as possible ; and am,

“Sir,

“Your most faithful

“humble servant.”

No. 205. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1756.

—*Nunc adhibe puro
Pectore verba, puer: nunc te melioribus offer.*

HOR. EPIST. i. 2. 67.

—*Tendere ad Indos.
Auroramque sequi.*—

VIRG. ÆN. vii. 605.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ AMONG the many reasons that were urged against entering into the present war, and the various clamours that have been raised since the commencement of hostilities, I do not find anybody has considered the importance of a peace with France, in regard to the education of our young nobility; and I cannot but think our ministers would have been less hasty in their measures, had they paid proper attention to an object of so great moment.

This oversight is the more surprising, as the dangers attending heirs apparent at home, and the necessity of travel from the age of seventeen to twenty-one, have long been notorious to all the world. Who would trust a son in the way of pedantry and tobacco, party and elections, fox hounds and Newmarket; of the bewitching glances that lurk beneath a pompadour hat at Ranelagh, or the unadorned, but not less dangerous charms of the curate's daughter near the mansion-seat? On the other side, who is not aware that, abroad, national prejudices are destroyed, the mind is opened, the taste refined, the person improved? And, what must be a further consolation

to parents, is, that the habits and manners contracted by young gentlemen, in their travels, are likely to remain with them all their lives after. It seldom happens that the Paris pump and Lyons velvet give place to the tight boot and short shirt; or that a man accustomed to the elegance and loll of a *vis à vis*, with cushions of down within, and the varnish of Martin without, is so absurd, at his return, as to trot ten miles before day in a dreary winter morning, and pass the hours due to hazard or a mistress, on the side of a bleak cover, shivering in expectation of a fox.

“As it is far from my intention to stir up a clamour against the advisers of this war, I shall not enter further into a discussion of the advantages of a foreign, or the evils of a domestic education, but hasten to my scheme for the improvement of youth, in spite of our enemies; the first hint of which arose accidentally in conversation with a friend, at whose house in the country I spent some days last month.

“We were walking in a park, decorated with all the variety of Asiatic ornament, which at present so generally prevails among improvers of taste; when this gentleman, who is a leading man of that class, as well as a thorough zealot in the modern system of education, took occasion to consult me in regard to the disposal of his eldest son, a youth about sixteen years of age, heir to a very large fortune, and at present at one of our universities. My friend, I found, was very uneasy lest he should contract the rust of the college, and most pathetically lamented his ill-fortune, that the doors of France should be so critically shut against a lad formed, by nature, for all the accomplishments which so eminently distinguish that polite nation.

“In reflecting upon the good man’s embarrass-

ment, and admiring the several temples, bridges, and other edifices of Chinese architecture which surrounded me, I was led to consider whether to send our sons to Peking, instead of Paris, would not better answer all purposes of travel. And though you may start, as did my friend, at the first view of this proposal, I doubt not, Mr. Fitz-Adam, but, upon deliberation, you will agree with me in many of the circumstances that I think must render such a progress preferable to the other, more entertaining to the young gentlemen themselves, more suitable to the intentions of their parents and guardians, and more beneficial to their country.

“Among the many considerations which immediately occurred to me upon this subject, I shall beg leave principally to observe, that the manufactures of China, which have hitherto reached us, bear the preference to most of our own of the same kinds, in spite of European pride ; and I am persuaded those politer arts, which are the great object of travel, are in a degree of excellence, well worthy our notice, among the ingenious people of that country, though they have hitherto made their way to us, slowly and imperfectly, for want of proper travellers. The merchant and the missionary, almost the only visitors of so distant a region, attend merely to those observations which regard the commerce and religion of their nation and sect ; the views of the one are too confined, and of the other generally too enthusiastic to produce the good effects which would accrue from the inquiries of men of more enlarged ideas and unprejudiced sentiments. The present juncture seems marked by the good genius of this isle for the most important discoveries. How many young men of fashion might be picked out, whom no one could suspect of prejudices either in favour of trade or

religion ! and surely, a mettled fellow could not hesitate in his choice between this route and the old beaten one of France and Italy ; where from a Calais landlord, to a Neapolitan princess, there is a sameness of adventure that is become extremely irksome to a polite circle in the recital. A traveller will be greatly disappointed who fancies the tour of Europe will entitle him to attention at Arthur's or an assembly. Alas ! after four years of expense, danger, and fatigue, if he expects auditors, he must have recourse to his tenants in the country, or seek them about four o'clock on a bench in St. James's park. On the contrary, let us suppose a young nobleman just arrived with a dress and equipage *à la Chinoise*, what a curiosity would be excited in the town ! what entertainment, what admiration would it afford ! What triumph would he feel in entering a rout, to see, at his approach, the lover rise from beneath the hoop on the settee, the dowager quit her cards, and all

With greedy ears devour up his discourse !

“ It would be a severe blow to the French, Mr. Fitz-Adam, should the Chinese succeed to the empire of taste ; and it is worthy remark, as I hinted above, and as others of your correspondents have done before, what advances they daily make towards it. Without doors, from the seats of our dukes to the shops of our haberdashers, all is Chinese ; and, in most places within, at least where that sex which ought always to have the lead in elegance, is concerned, Raphael and Titian give place to the more pleasing masters of Surat and Japan. Should their dress and cookery become as fashionable as their architecture and painting, adieu the most flourishing commerce of France ; and I see no reason why

they should not, if introduced by proper persons. Novelty is the soul of both, and quickness of invention the surest recommendation to the cook, as well as the tailor. For my own part, I have commissioned my two nephews, who are actually preparing for their voyage next spring, to bring over one of the greatest men they can find in each of these capacities ; and I flatter myself that their dress and my table will give the taste to the whole town. I have likewise desired these young gentlemen to contract for the best dancers now in Asia, whether monkeys or men, and propose to oblige the managers of both theatres with a Chinese ballet, that I think will engage to them the support of the whole society of Anti-Gallicans.

“ If any young nobleman can want yet further encouragement for this undertaking, let him consider how much greater scope there is to show his genius in the construction of a vessel, than in that of a postchaise ; not to mention the many conveniences and comforts he will have about him, which a land-carriage cannot afford ; for instance, his cook, his toadeater, his set at Whist, and, if he pleases, his girl ; for, by the way, it would be cruel in a parent to deny a son, embarked on so useful a progress, any of those amusements or resources, so generally esteemed innocent in other travels, and which, indeed, I have seldom heard that the most scrupulous governor objected to in France or Italy. It is possible that the article of sea-sickness may alarm the tenderness of some mothers ; but what is it more than the qualms of claret ? and a youth who has shown any spirit at college, cannot have much to apprehend from that complaint.

“ And here, Mr. Fitz-Adam, I cannot forbear hinting to our patriots, of what service such a system

of education would prove to our marine, the great bulwark of the nation. I am persuaded it would turn out as good a nursery for sailors as the herring fishery; and what a resource would it be in any sudden emergency, like the present, for example, if the numerous retinues of the gay and great were able to go to a topmast head! A set of fellows who now serve only to excite the contempt or indignation of their industrious countrymen, would become useful members, and be regarded as a hidden strength of the state. Who knows but some of the young gentlemen themselves might take a more particular fancy to a blue uniform than to a red one? and, I apprehend, it would as soon entitle them to the esteem of their country, and not be less becoming in the eyes of the ladies.

“But the point which will be thought of the most importance by your serious readers, is still behind. It has been remarked of late years, I fear with some truth, that the majority of our young travellers return home entirely divested of the religion of their country, without having acquired any new one in its place. Now as our free-thinkers are universally known to be the strictest moralists, I apprehend the doctrine of Confucius might have a very good effect upon them, and possibly give them a certain plan which they have all along wanted. In time, perhaps, they might institute some form of public worship, and thereby remove the scandal of atheism, which our enemies abroad, from the behaviour of our travellers, are so apt to brand us with; and it is my private opinion, that if a Chinese temple were to be built by subscription, in a good quarter of the town, for the worship of the polite world, it could not fail of success.

“I now, Mr. Fitz-Adam, leave you to comment

upon my project. If it is recommended from your pen, I doubt not but it will be followed. We shall then see the new and old route distinguished by the title of the grand and little tour. It will be left to the ensign and the templar to trip to Paris, in absence from quarters and long vacation ; plodding geniuses, admirers of the classics, philosophers, and poets, will reach Rome ; while the noble youth of more extensive fortune and more general principles, the rising spirits, born to take the lead, and set a pattern to the world, strike out a path more worthy their genius, and more adapted to the enlightened age in which we live.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your constant reader and admirer,

“ C.”

No. 206. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1756.

*Audire est operæ pretium, procedere rectè
Qui mæchis non vultis, ut omni parte laborent,
Utque illis multo corrupta dolore voluptas.*

HOR. SAT. i. 2. 37.

“ MR. FITZ-ADAM,

“ As the history of my life may be of some service to many of your readers, I shall relate it with all the openness and simplicity of truth. If they give a due attention to the errors and mistakes of my conduct, they will pass over those of my style. I am no scholar, having had a private education under the eye of my mother. Instead of conversing

or playing with other boys, I went a visiting with her; and while she and my tutor were at cribbage, in which they passed a considerable part of the day, I read such books as I found lying about her room; the chief of which were the *Atalantis*, Ovid's *Art of Love*, novels, romances, miscellaneous poems, and plays. From these studies I contracted an early taste for gallantry; and, as nothing pleased me so much as the comedies of the last age, my thoughts were constantly engrossed with the enviable situation of the heroes of those pieces. Your *Dorimants* and your *Horners* struck my imagination beyond the brightest characters in Pope's *Homer*; and though I liked the gallantry of fighting ten years for a woman, yet I thought the Greeks might have found a readier way of making themselves amends, by visiting their friends at Troy, and taking revenge in kind. Such were the exploits to command my admiration, and such the examples which I looked up to; and, having manifest advantages of person, I entertained most extravagant conceits of my future triumphs. Yet, even in the height of those extravagances, I had no hope of obtaining every favour that I solicited; much less should I have been persuaded that such uncommon success could be productive of any thing but consummate happiness. The history of my life will prove the contrary; and I choose to record it, with a view of showing what a succession of troubles, distress, and misery, arose from the very completion of my desires.

“I was precipitately sent to Oxford, on being discovered in an intrigue with a young girl, whom my tutor had lately married, and who had a prior attachment to me. As my love for her was excessive, this separation was inexpressibly painful; and I learned from it that past joys were no consolation

for present disappointment. I found the university life so little suited to my taste, that I soon prevailed upon my mother to let me come to London. Before I had been a week in town I was introduced to a young woman, whom I took so great a fancy to that the very violence of my passion made me despair of success. I was, however, so agreeably disappointed, that I could scarce conceal the transports of joy which possession gave me ; but this joy was more than balanced, when, at the end of some months, I was told of the condition into which this kind creature was brought, by her compliance with my desires. My anxiety, upon this event, was too great to be restrained ; and honour, which alone had stopped the overflowings of my joy, prompted me to give a loose to my concern. I bewailed, with remorse and tears, the shame and misery of deluded innocence, and cursed myself as the author of so much ruin and infamy. I spared no expense to render her unhappy situation as comfortable as it could be made, and shut myself up with her till the expected time of her delivery. That fatal hour infinitely increased our mutual shame, by giving birth to a little negro, which, though it delivered me at once from the pangs of conscience, put me to an immoderate expense in bribes to the nurses, to keep the secret of my disgrace.

“This unlucky adventure had almost spoiled me for a man of gallantry ; but I soon lost all remembrance of ill-usage in the innocent smiles and gentle sweetness of a young lady, who gave me every mark of tender love and constancy. Our mutual fondness made it impossible for us to bear that separation which discretion required. As she gave up all her acquaintance, for my sake, she soon found herself abandoned by them ; so that our constant living

together, which, hitherto, had been choice, was now become an absolute necessity. This confinement, though it did not abate, but, if possible, increased my tenderness, had so different an effect upon her temper, as to cause a total change of behaviour to me and all about her ; she stormed, day and night, like a fury, and did every thing to drive me from her company ; yet, if ever I went from her upon the most urgent business, she would throw herself into fits and upbraid me with the most bitter reproaches. On my being sent for to attend my mother in her last moments, she threatened, with horrid imprecations, that, if I left her then, I should never see her more. I had scarce broke from her menaces when she flew from her lodgings, in an agony of passion, and has not been heard of since.

“ Soon after the death of my mother, a lady of quality, who visited her, and who had cast an envious eye upon her diamonds, which were not contemptible, took occasion to make some advances towards me. Whenever we met, her discourse always turned upon the great merits of my mother, and the taste which she showed in the choice and manner of wearing her jewels ; and this conversation as constantly ended in an assignation at her own house. Though I was, at first, a little proud to find my presents meet so ready an acceptance, I was not exceedingly flattered in the progress of this amour ; especially when I came to perceive, that the strongest recommendation I had to her favour was growing weaker every day. I found, also, that a declaration which I had made of not loving cards, did not contribute to strengthen my interest in that family.

“ My next affair was with a lady who was really fond of me ; and I thought myself then at the height of my wishes ; for she managed so discreetly that

we had not the least interruption from her husband at home ; but her conduct abroad was a perpetual scene of indiscretion and tyranny. She obliged me to attend her every night to the opera, and never to stir from her side. She would carry me to the most frequented plays, and keep me in a whisper during the most interesting scenes. Not satisfied with this, she made me walk with her eternally in the park, the old road, and Kensington gardens ; and, to complete her triumph, she dragged me, a miserable object ! about the streets of London, with the same pitiless ostentation as the inhuman conqueror trailed the lifeless carcass of Hector round the walls of Troy. To complete my misfortunes, it happened that the *beau monde* established a new mode of gallantry ; and all knights amorous were required to make love after the new fashion, and attend their fair on horseback. Unluckily for me, my mother, not suspecting that horsemanship would ever become here a requisite in gallantry, had made it no part of my English education ; therefore, being an absolute novice, I procured the quietest beast that was to be got, and hoped that I was properly mounted ; but I soon found my mistake ; for the dulness of the beast tended to bring a most disgraceful suspicion on the spirit of the rider ; and I was obliged, at all events, to undertake a more mettlesome steed. The consequence was this : the moment I joined my mistress, she drew out her handkerchief, which, fluttering in the wind, so frightened my horse that he carried me directly into the serpentine river. While I was taken up with my own danger and disgrace, her horse, which had started at the same time, ran a different way, and, as she was no otherwise qualified for a rider, but by the consciousness of being a woman of fashion, she

was thrown against a tree, and killed on the spot. The remembrance of her fondness for me, though so troublesome while living, was the cause of great affliction to me after her death ; and it was near a twelvemonth before I settled my affections on a new object. This was a young widow, who, though she did not give me the same occasion of complaint as the last, created me no less pain by turning the tables upon me. Instead of requiring my constant attendance, she would complain that I haunted and dogged her ; and would, frequently, secrete herself, or run, on purpose, into suspicious company, purely to give me uneasiness. Though, confessedly, her favourite, I have frequently been denied admittance, when the most worthless pretenders have been let in ; and, when I have offered her tickets for a concert which she liked, she has refused them, and accepted a party to a dull play, with the most despicable of my rivals. When we have been at the same table at cards, she has made it remarked by the whole assembly that her eyes and her discourse have been industriously kept from me ; and such has been her cruelty, that, when I have desired the honour of walking with her the next morning, she has answered, with a significant sneer, she was very sorry she could not have my company, for she intended to ride. With all this, who could imagine that I was the happy man ? and, yet, as I spared no pains or cost in the inquiry, I can venture to pronounce that no other persons whatever shared her favours with me. Of all the tortures that can be devised for the punishment of poor lovers, there are none so excruciating as this inequality of behaviour.

“ Not to trouble you with a further detail of the plagues and inquietudes, the discoveries, expenses,

finer, and dangers, which are incident to gallantry in general, I shall only tell you that I at last perceived there was no peace or comfort for the votaries of Venus but under the auspices of Hymen. To overcome my inveterate prejudices against the conjugal state, so long despised, insulted, and injured by me, was the great difficulty; but, as the thorough detection of the vanity and folly of every degree of gallantry had by no means extinguished my unalterable love for the sex, I found, upon mature reflection, that marriage was my only resource, and that I should run no great risk in exchanging the real for the imaginary pains of love.

“Having taken this resolution, I stepped into the *ridotto*, fixed my eyes upon a very engaging figure, and immediately advertised for the young lady in blue and silver; requiring only a certificate of her good-humour. I went to the coffee-house, received a letter for A. B., and, in the space of a few months, from being a restless, tyrannized, tormented wretch, I found myself a husband, a cuckold, and a happy man. I lived ten years in a state of perfect tranquillity; and, I can truly say, that I once met with a woman who, to the day of her death, behaved to me with constant attention and complacency.

“I am, Sir,

“Your most humble servant,

“T. Z.”

No. 207. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1756.

THE exorbitant exactions of servants in great houses, and the necessity imposed upon you, after dining at a friend's table, of surrendering all the money in your pocket to the gang in livery, who very dexterously intercept every avenue to the street door, have been the subject of a former paper. This custom, illiberal and preposterous as it is, neither the ridicule with which I have treated it, nor my more serious reprehension, will, I fear, be able to abolish. My correspondents continue to complain that, though the hospitable door is opened wide for their admission, yet, like that of Pluto in Virgil, it is hardly pervious at their retreat; nor can they pass the ninefold barrier without a copious shower of influencing silver. The watchful dragons still expect, and will expect forever, their quieting sop, from his honour's bowing butler, with the significant napkin under his arm, to the surly Swiss who guards the vestibule. Your passport is not now received by these collectors, as a free gift, but gathered as a turnpike toll; or, in other words, as the just discharge of your tavern reckoning. Thus, the style of invitation, which runs, generally, that 'Lord such a-one desires that you will do him the favor to dine with him,' is explained by dear-bought experience, to import, that you will obligingly contribute your quota to the payment of his servants' wages.

Yet this abuse, grievous as it is to the guest, and disgraceful to the master, is by no means the great-

est inconvenience arising from a want of attention to economical regulations. The following letter, which I have only room to insert at present, but which, for the sake of my correspondent, I may possibly take under consideration at another opportunity, will sufficiently show the necessity of such regulations.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ I am a plain country gentleman, possessed of a plentiful fortune, and blest with most of the comforts of life ; but, am at present — not through any fault of my own, that I can recollect — in great distress ; which I am as much at a loss how to remedy, as I was unable to prevent. Though I have loved peace and quiet all my life, and have endeavoured constantly to maintain good order and harmony in my family, I owe my grievances to the intrigues and jealousies which have, unhappily, subsisted for some time past amongst my servants. I give them good wages, which I pay punctually ; I indulge them in every reasonable request, from a desire to make them happy ; and, I have been told by all of them in their several turns, that I am, without exception, the very best of masters.

“ Yet, with all my care and kindness, I cannot establish a proper subordination amongst them ; without which, I am sensible, no family government can long subsist ; and for want of which, as they cannot find a decent and reasonable cause of complaint against me, they are perpetually quarrelling with one another. They do not, I believe, intend originally to hurt me ; on the contrary, they pretend my advantage alone is the occasion of their disagreement. But were this really true, my case

is no less deplorable; for, notwithstanding the zeal they express for my service, and the respect and affection they profess to my person, my life is made miserable by their domestic squabbles; and my estate is mouldering away daily, whilst they are contending who should manage it for me. They are so obliging as to assure me, upon their honours, that their contests are only who can best serve so good a master, and deserve and claim the first place in his favour; but, alas! I begin to be a little apprehensive that their struggle is, and has been, who should get most vails, and have most power under me; or, as you may think perhaps, over me.

“The first appearance of this intestine discord was upon the following occasion.

“I have a very troublesome neighbour, who is continually committing encroachments upon my lands and manor. He attacks me first with his pen; and, pretending to have found out some flaw in my settlements, he commences a suit of trespass against me; but at the same time, fearing lest the law should happen to decide in favour of right, he sends me word he wears a sword. Not long ago he threatened me that he would break into my park, steal my fish out of my canal, and shoot my hares and deer within my pales. Upon the advice of my steward and other servants, I sent to my estate in the north for a trusty gamekeeper, whose bravery and fidelity I could rely upon, to come to my assistance, that he might help to preserve, not only my game but my family, which seemed to be in no small danger. These orders were no sooner dispatched, than, to my great surprise, my postilion bolted into the parlour where I was sitting, and told me, with all the warmth of a patriot, that he could not consent to Ferdinand, the gamekeeper’s

admission into the house, for that he humbly conceived it was neither for my honour nor my interest to be indebted for any part of my protection, or even safety, to a foreigner; for you must know, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that, very unfortunately for me, my poor honest Ferdinand did happen to be born somewhere or other in Germany. You may imagine, however, that I paid little attention to this remonstrance of my postilion; but, dismissing him from my service, I sent for Ferdinand; who, upon the first summons, travelled night and day to come to my relief.

“The next fit of affection that embarrassed me, broke out in my ambitious helper. He professed himself so excessively careful of my person, that he did not think it safe for me to be driven any longer by my old coachman; on which account he grew impatient to ascend the box himself. But his contrivances to facilitate this removal, were plain indications that he attended to his own advancement more than to my preservation; for, I have been informed, that he has often frightened the horses to make them start unexpectedly out of the quarter; at other times he has been detected in laying great stones in the way, with a design to overturn the coach; and, in roads of difficulty and danger, was sure to keep out of the way himself; nay, at last, he tried to persuade the servants, that it was the coachman’s intention to drive headlong over them, and break all their necks. But when he found I had too good an opinion of old Thomas to entertain any suspicion of his honesty, he came one morning in a pet, and gave me warning. I told him, with great temper, he was to blame, paid him his wages, and bid Thomas provide himself with another helper. But I leave you to judge of my

grief, as well as surprise, when Thomas answered me, with tears in his eyes, 'that he must entreat my permission to retire from my service; he found,' he said, 'he had many enemies, both within doors and without; my family was divided into various parties; some were favourable to the helper, and others had been wrought upon by the late postilion; he should be always grateful for the goodness I had shown him; and his last breath should be employed in praying for my prosperity.' It was with great reluctance that I consented to his request; he had served me honestly above thirty years, from affection more than interest; had always greased my wheels himself, and upon every one of my birthdays, had treated all his brother whips at his own expense; so that far from being a gainer by my service, he had spent above half of what he had saved before he came into it. You may imagine I would willingly have settled a comfortable annuity upon him; but you will wonder at his behaviour on this occasion; indeed, I have never met with any thing like it, in one of his low station; he declared that he would rather live upon bread and cheese, than put my honour to any expense, when he could be no longer useful to me.

"Thus have I been reduced, contrary to my inclination, to hire another coachman. The man I have now taken bears a very reputable character; but he happens to be so infirm, that he is scarce yet able to get upon his box; and though he promises, and I believe intends to take all possible care of my horses, I fear he has not been accustomed to drive a set so restive as mine are, especially in bad roads. I have also been persuaded to take my postilion again, as he is a great favourite of my present coachman. Between them they are new model-

ling my family for me, and discharging those servants whom they happen to dislike. My experienced bailiff, who used to hold my courts, has left me ; and my gamekeeper, who has been obliged to lie during this hard winter in a tent in the garden, is ordered back again into the north, though he has given no sort of offence, but, on the contrary, has been greatly instrumental in protecting me from the insults of my blustering neighbour ; so unpardonable a crime is it to be born in Germany !

“ Good Mr. Fitz-Adam, advise me, as a friend, what course to take. We masters, as we are improperly called, are become of late so subservient to our servants, that I should apprehend this universal want of subordination in them must at last be detrimental to the state itself ; for as a family is composed of many servants, cities and countries are made up of many houses and families, which, together, constitute a nation. Disobedience in the majority of individuals to their superiors, cannot fail of producing a general licentiousness, which must terminate, at last, in anarchy and confusion.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your constant reader and admirer,

“ GEORGE MEANWELL.”

No. 208. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1756.

As the first of the following letters is written by a female correspondent, and the second intended

for the service of that sex, I have taken the first opportunity of giving them to the public.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“ I am a young woman, and live in the country with an uncle and aunt, whose characters, as they are somewhat particular, may perhaps contribute towards the entertainment of your readers. My uncle is a man so full of himself, that he approves of nothing but what is done — to use his own words — after his maxim. About three years ago he caught a great cold; ever since which time he wears a great coat, and calls every man a fool that goes without one, even in the dogdays. The other day a relation coming to see him, was thrown off his horse, and broke his leg. When he was brought into the house, and my uncle came to be informed that the accident happened by his passing through a bad lane, in order to call upon a particular friend in his way to us, he told him, with an air of great importance, that it was always a maxim with him, ‘ never to do two things at once.’ He then introduced a long story about Queen Elizabeth and Lord Burleigh, which, after it had lasted above half an hour, concluded with Lord Burleigh’s telling the queen, that he had made it a maxim, ‘ never to do but one thing at a time.’ Thus did he perplex the poor gentleman who lay all the time with a broken limb; nor would he suffer any person in the room to go for a surgeon till his story was told. While the leg was setting, and the patient in the utmost torment, my uncle stood by, and, with all the rhetoric he was master of, endeavoured to persuade his kinsman that his misfortune was entirely owing to a neglect of those excellent maxims which he had

so often taught him. He concluded his harangue with a string of proverbs, mottoes, and sentiments ; of which he is so ridiculously fond, that there is no single action of his life that is not entirely governed by one or other of them. I have seen him in the garden, in the midst of a most violent thunder-shower, walking a snail's pace towards the house, because his friend Lord Onslow's motto is *festina lente* ; which words I have heard him repeat and explain so often, that I have them always in my head.

"My aunt is truly one flesh with her husband. She approves of nothing but what is done after her own example, though she is unable to support her prejudices even by a proverb or a saying. As I am so unfortunate as to differ from her in almost all my actions, we are extremely liable to quarrel. She gets up at six, because she cannot sleep ; and I lie in bed till nine, because I cannot easily wake. When we meet at breakfast, I am sure to be scolded for my drowsiness and indulgence, and questioned at least a dozen times over, 'why I cannot do as she does, get up with the sun?' 'Ay,' says my uncle, 'and go to rest with the lark, as the saying is.' But, alas ! my aunt observes but part of the saying ; for, long before the lark goes to roost, she will fall asleep in her chair, unless kept awake by cards ; though her usual bedtime is not till nine o'clock.

"Now, Mr. Fitz-Adam, I would fain know whether the hours between nine and twelve, provided you are quite awake, are not of equal use with those between six and nine, when you are half the time asleep ? My aunt says No ; for that one hour in the morning, is worth two in the afternoon ; which I cannot, for the life of me, comprehend.

“The old lady is one of those good sort of women who think every thing beneath their notice but family affairs and housekeeping ; for which reason, if ever she catches me reading a volume of *The Spectator* or *World* she immediately asks me if the *Art of Cookery*, which she made me a present of, is mislaid or lost ; to which she is sure to add, that, for her part, she does not see what good can come of reading such heathenish books ; and that, had she given up her mind to nonsense and stuff, my uncle and his family must have been beggars, so they must.

“Am I really to be governed by these old folks, or may I go on in my old way, and laugh at their absurdities ? I read your paper every Friday when the post comes in, and shall be glad to see this letter inserted in your next, with your opinion of the matter, that I may know which is the wisest, my uncle, my aunt, or Mr. Fitz-Adam’s

“humble servant

“and admirer,

“C. P.”

“SIR,

“If we pay a due regard to proverbial expressions, which are oftentimes founded in good sense and experience, the texture of the skull, particularly the extreme thickness or extreme thinness of it, contributes not a little to the stupidity or folly of our species. By a thick-skulled man we always mean a fool, and, by a thin-skulled fellow, one without any discretion. May we not, therefore, suppose that the state of men, respecting their understandings, is pretty much this ; when their craniums are extremely solid, they are generally idiots ; when, in

a medium, persons of sense ; when somewhat thinner, wits ; and when extremely thin, madmen ?

“ What has led me into these reflections, is the present practice among our ladies, of going bare-headed, and a remarkable passage in Herodotus, concerning the effect of that practice among the Egyptians.

“ This ancient and curious historian and traveller tells us, that passing by Pelusium, where there had been, many years before, a bloody battle fought between the Persians and Egyptians, and the skulls of the slain on each side being still in different heaps, he found upon trial, that those of the Egyptians were so thick, they required a very strong blow to break them ; whereas those of the Persians were so thin and tender, they scarcely resisted the slightest stroke. Herodotus attributes the thinness and tenderness of the Persians' skulls, to their wearing warm caps or turbans ; and the thickness and hardness of the Egyptians, to their going bareheaded, and thereby exposing their heads to heats and colds. Now if this opinion of Herodotus, and the foregoing remarks, be well founded, what rueful effects may the present fashion of our ladies exposing their heads to all weathers, especially in the present cold season, be attended with ! Instead of sensible, witty, and ingenious women, for which this country has so long been famous, we may, in a little time, have only a generation of triflers.

“ By what has happened to a neighbouring nation, we have the more reason to dread the like misfortune among ourselves. And happy are those who take warning by the misfortunes of others. Formerly, when the Dutch kept their heads warm in furred caps, they were a wise and brave people, delivered themselves from slavery, and established a

wealthy and formidable republic; but since they have left off this good old fashion, and taken to French toupées, whereby their heads are much exposed, they are become so thick-skulled, that is, so stupid and foolish, as to neglect almost every means of national benefit and preservation.

“Though the ancient Greeks were some of the wisest and most acute people in the world, yet the Bœotians were remarkably ignorant and dull. What can we ascribe this difference between them and their fellow Greeks to, but the different conformations of the seat of knowledge? I wish our society of antiquaries would endeavour to find out if this did not proceed from the Bœotians following the Egyptians fashion above mentioned.

“Are we to suppose that the only motive of our eminent physicians and great lawyers for wearing such large periwigs as they generally do, is merely to appear wiser than other people? Have they not experienced that these warm coverings of the head greatly contribute to render them really so? One apparent proof of their being wiser than most others is, that the former very rarely take any physic, and the latter never go to law when they can avoid it. However, we must for the sake of truth acknowledge that too many of these gentlemen, of both professions, seem to have carried the practice of keeping their heads warm to such an excess as to occasion a kind of madness, which shows itself in so voracious an appetite for fees, as can hardly be satisfied. But as we frequently see good proceed from evil, may it not be hoped that these extravagances of physicians and lawyers will put people upon making as little work as possible for either, by substituting temperance in the room of physic, and arbitrations instead of lawsuits?

“Whether your female readers will take warning by the examples here set before them, or much esteem your advice or mine, I know not ; but surely such of them at least as go to church, and there say their prayers, will pay a proper regard to St. Paul, who tells them that ‘every woman who prayeth with her head uncovered, dishonoureth her head.’

“In one of the islands in the Archipelago, I think it is Naxos, there was formerly a law that no woman should appear abroad in embroidered clothes, or with jewels, unless she were a professed courtesan ; nor be attended, when she walked the streets, with more than one waiting-maid, except she was in liquor. Now what I would propose is, that you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, should issue out an edict, that none of the fair sex in our island shall, for the future, be seen in public without a cap, but such as are known to be ladies of pleasure ; unless you shall be pleased to except those who are apt to tipple a little too much, and therefore go in this manner to cool their heads.

“I am, Sir,

“Your most humble servant.”

No. 209. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1756.

THE public will no doubt be a good deal astonished, that instead of the great name of Adam Fitz-Adam to this paper, they now see it is written by a poor weak woman, its publisher, and dated from the Globe in Paternoster Row. Alas ! nothing but

my regard and veneration for that dear good man could have got the better of my modesty, and tempted me to an undertaking that only himself was equal to.

Before these lines can reach the press, that truly great and amiable gentleman will, in all probability, be no more. An event so sudden and unexpected, and in which the public are so deeply interested, cannot fail to excite the curiosity of every reader; I shall therefore relate it in the concisest manner I am able, not in the least doubting but my defects in style will be overlooked, and that grief and concern will prevent criticism.

The reader may remember, that in the first number of *The World*, and in several succeeding papers, the good old gentleman flattered himself that the profits of his labours would some time or other enable him to make a genteel figure in the world, and seat him at last in his one-horse chair. The death of Mrs. Fitz-Adam, which happened a few months since, as it relieved him from the great expense of housekeeping, made him in a hurry to set up his equipage; and, as the sale of his paper was even beyond his expectations, I was one of the first of his friends that advised him to purchase it. The equipage was accordingly bespoke, and sent home; and as he had all along promised that his first visit in it should be to me, I expected him last Tuesday at my country-house, at Illoxton. The poor gentleman was punctual to his appointment; and it was with great delight that I saw him, from my window, driving up the road that leads to my house. Unfortunately for him, his eye caught mine; and hoping, as I suppose, to captivate me by his great skill in driving, he made two or three flourishes with his whip, which so frightened the horse, that he ran furiously

away with the carriage, dashed it against a post, and threw the driver from his seat with a violence hardly to be conceived. I screamed out to my maid, 'Lord bless me!' says I, 'Mr. Fitz-Adam is killed!' and away we ran to the spot where he lay. At first, I imagined that his head was off; but, upon drawing nearer to him, I found it was his hat! He breathed, indeed, which gave me hopes that he was not quite dead; but, for other signs of life, he had positively none.

In this miserable condition, with the help of some neighbours, we brought him into the house, where a warm bed was quickly got ready for him; which, together with the bleeding and other helps, brought him, by degrees, to life and reason. He looked round about him for some time, and at last, seeing and knowing me, inquired after his chaise. I told him it was safe, though a good deal damaged. 'No matter, madam,' he replied; 'it has done my business; it has carried me a journey from this world to the next; I shall have no use for it again.' Here his speech failed him, and I thought him expiring; but, after a few minutes, recovering, as it were from a trance, he proceeded thus: 'Mrs. Cooper,' says he, 'you behold, in the miserable object now before you, a speaking monument of the folly and madness of ambition. This fatal chaise was the ultimate end of all my pursuits; the hope of it animated my labours, and filled me with ideas of felicity and grandeur. Alas! how has it humbled me! May other great men take warning by my fall! The World, Mrs. Cooper, is now at an end! I thought it destined to a longer period; but the decrees of fate are not to be resisted. It would indeed have pleased me to have written the last paper myself; but that task, madam, must be yours; and, however painful

it may be to your modesty, I conjure you to undertake it.' He paused here for a moment or two, as if waiting for my answer; and, as well as I could speak for sorrow and concern, I promised what he asked. 'Your knowledge as a publisher, madam, proceeded he, and your great fluency of words, will make it perfectly easy to you. Little more will be necessary than to set forth my sudden and unhappy end; to make my acknowledgments to the public for the indulgence it has shown me; and, above all, to testify my gratitude to my numerous correspondents, to whose elegant pieces this paper has been principally indebted for its uncommon success. I intended, with permission, to have closed the work with a list of those correspondents; but death prevents me from raising this monument to my fame.'

A violent fit of coughing, in which I feared the poor gentleman would have gone off, robbed him of his speech for more than half an hour; at last, however, he came again to himself, and, though more feebly than before, proceeded as follows: 'I am thankful, madam, that I yet live, and that an opportunity is given me of confessing the frailties of my nature to a faithful friend.' I winked at Susan to withdraw, but she would not understand me; her stay, however, did not prevent Mr. Fitz-Adam from giving me a full detail of the sins of his youth; which, as they only amount to a few gallantries among the ladies, with nothing more heinous than a rape or two at college, we bid him be of comfort, and think no more of such trifles. 'And now, madam,' says he, 'I have another concern to trouble you with. When I was a boy, at school, it always possessed my thoughts, that whenever I died I should be buried in Westminster abbey. I confess freely to you, madam, that this has been the

constant ambition of my riper years. The great good which my labours have done to mankind will, I hope, entitle my remains to an interment in that honorable place ; nor will the public, I believe, be disinclined to erect a suitable monument to my memory. The frontispiece to *The World*, which was the lucky thought of my printer, I take to be a most excellent design ; and if executed at large in virgin marble, must have an admirable effect. I can think only of one alteration in it, which is, that in the background I would have, in relief, a one-horse chair in the act of overturning, that the story of my death, as it contains a lesson for the ambitious, may be recorded with my name. My epitaph, if the public might be so satisfied, I would have decent and concise. It would offend my modesty, if after the name of Fitz-Adam, more were to be added than these words,

He was the deepest Philosopher,
The wittiest Writer,
and
The greatest Man
Of this age or nation.

I say, madam, of this age and nation, because other times and other countries have produced very great men ; insomuch that there are names among the ancients hardly inferior to that of Adam Fitz-Adam.'

The good old gentleman would have proceeded, but his speech failed him again, and he lay as if expiring for two whole hours ; during which interval, as I had no time to spare, and as all I had heard was then fresh in my memory, I sat myself down to fulfil the promise I had made. When I had

written thus far, he again attempted to speak to me, but could not. I held up the paper to him, and asked if he would hear it read. He nodded his assent, and, after I had gone through it, his approbation. I desired him to signify by some motion of his hand, if there was any thing in it that he wished to have altered. He nodded his head again, and gave me a look of such complacency and regard, as convinced me I had pleased him. It is from a knowledge of this circumstance that I shall now send what I have written to the press, with no other concern than for the accident which occasioned it; an accident, which I shall never think of without tears, as it will probably deprive the public of a most able instructor, and me of a worthy friend and constant benefactor.

MARY COOPER.

Globe, Paternoster Row,
Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1756.

P. S. Wednesday night, ten o'clock. Mr. Fitz-Adam is still alive, though in a dangerous way. He came to his speech this morning, and directed me to inform the public, that as *The World* is now closed, he has ordered a general Index to the folio volumes to be printed, and given gratis, in a few days, at Mr. Dodsley's in Pall Mall, and at M. Cooper's at the Globe in Paternoster Row.

A WORLD EXTRAORDINARY.

The following paper having been transmitted to Mr. Fitz-Adam's bookseller on the very day of that gentleman's misfortune, he takes the liberty to offer it to the public just as it came to hand.

“ TO MR. FITZ-ADAM.

“ SIR,

“As the contagion of politics has been so prevalent of late, that it has even, I won't say infected, but at least, infused itself into the papers of the impartial Mr. Fitz-Adam, perhaps I may not make him an unacceptable present in the following piece, which will humour the bent of his disorder, for I must consider political writings as a distemper, and at the same time will cool, not increase, any sharpness in his blood.

“Though the author of this little essay is retired from the busier scenes of life, he has not buried himself in such indifference to his country, as to despise, or not to attend to what is passing even in those scenes he has quitted; and having withdrawn from inclination, not from disgust, he preserves the same attachments that he formerly made, though contracted even then from esteem, not from interest. He sees, with a feeling concern, the distresses and distractions of his country; he foresees, with anxiety, the consequences of both. He laments the discord that divides those men of superior genius, whose union, with all their abilities, were perhaps inad-

equate to the crisis of our affairs. He does not presume to discuss the grounds of their dissensions, which he wishes themselves to overlook ; and he would be one of the last men in England to foment division, where his interest as a Briton, and his private inclinations as a man, bid him hope for coalition. Yet he would not be a Man, he might be a Stoic, if even these inclinations were equally balanced ; his admiration may be suspended, his heart will be partial. From these sensations he has been naturally led to lament and condemn the late torrent of personalities ; he sees, with grief, the greatest characters treated with the greatest licentiousness ; his friendship has been touched at finding one of the most respectable aspersed in the most injurious manner. He holds that person's fame as much superior to reproach, as he thinks himself inferior to that person's defence ; and yet he cannot help giving his testimony to the reputation of a man, with whose friendship he has long been honoured. This ambition, Sir, has occasioned my troubling you with the following portrait, written eight years ago ; designed then as private incense to an honoured name ; and ever since preserved by the author only, and in the fair hands to which it was originally addressed. I will detain you no longer than to say, that if this little piece should be accused of flattery, let it be remembered that it was written when the subject of it was no minister of state, and that it is published now, and should not else have been published, when he is no minister at all.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your humble servant,

“ H. M.”

“TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LADY C. F.

“MADAM,

“I have been attempting to draw a picture of one of your friends, and think I have, in some degree, succeeded; but as I fear natural partiality may make me flatter myself, I choose to submit to your ladyship’s judgment, whose prepossessions for the person represented is likely to balance what fondness I may have for my own performances. As I believe you love the person in question as much as ever other people love themselves, the medium between the faults you shall find, and the just resemblance that I see in the following portrait, is likely to be an exact image.

“The gentleman I am drawing is about * three and-forty; as you see all the fondness and delicacy and attention of a lover in him, perhaps your ladyship may take him to be but three-and-twenty; but I, whose talent is not flattery, and who, from his judgment and experience and authority, should at first set him down for threescore, upon the strictest inquiry can only allow him to be in the vigour of his age and understanding. His person decides rather on my side, for though he has all the ease and amiableness of youth, yet your ladyship must allow that it has a dignity, which youth might aim at in vain and for which it will scarce ever be exchanged. If I were like common painters, I should give him a ruddy healthful complexion, and light up his countenance with insipid smiles and unmeaning benignity; but this would not be a faithful portrait; a florid bloom would no more give an idea of him, than his bended brow at first lets one into the vast

* This was written in the year 1748.

humanity of his temper ; or than an undistinguishing smile would supply the place of his manly curiosity and penetration. To paint him with a cheerful open countenance would be a poor return of compliment for the flattery that his approbation bestows, which, by not being promised, doubly satisfies one's self-love. The merit of others is degrading to their friends ; the gentleman I mean makes his worth open upon you, by persuading you that he discovers some in you.

“ He has the true characteristic of a great man that he is superior to others in his private, social, unbended hours. I am far from meaning by this superiority, that he exerts the force of his genius unnecessarily ; on the contrary, you only perceive his preëminence in those moments by his being more agreeably good-natured, and idle with more ease, than other people. He seems inquisitive, as if his only business were to learn ; and is unreserved, as if he were only to inform ; and is equally incapable of mystery in pretending to know what he does not, or in concealing what he does.

“ In the house of commons he was, for some time, an ungraceful and unpopular speaker, the abundance of his matter overflowing his elocution ; but the force of his reasoning has prevailed both over his own defects and those of his audience. He speaks with a strength and perspicuity of argument that commands the admiration of an age apt to be more cheaply pleased. But his vanity cannot satisfy itself on the terms it could satisfy others ; nor would he thank any man for his approbation, unless he were conscious of deserving it. But he carries this delicacy still further, and has been at the idle labour of making himself fame and honours by pursuing a regular and steady plan, when art and eloquence

would have carried him to an equal height, and made those fear him, who now only love him — if a party can love a man whom they see is only connected with them by principles, not by prejudices.

“In another light one may discover another littleness in his conduct ; in the affairs of his office * he is as minute and as full of application as if he were always to remain in the same post ; and as exact and knowing as if he always had been in it. He is as attentive to the solicitation and interest of others in his province, as if he were making their fortune, not his own ; and, to the great detriment of the ministry, had turned one of the best sinecures under the government into one of the most laborious employments, at the same time imagining that the ease with which he executes it, will prevent a discovery of the innovation. He receives all officers who address to him with as little pride as if he were secure of innate nobility ; yet this defect of illustrious birth is a blemish, which some of the greatest men have wanted to make them completely great ; Tully had it ; had the happiness and glory of raising himself from a private condition ; but boasting of it, might as well have been noble ; he degraded himself by usurping that prerogative of nobility, — pride of what one can neither cause nor prevent.

“I say nothing of his integrity, because I know nothing of it, but that it has never been breathed upon even by suspicion ; it will be time enough to vindicate it, when it has been impeached. He is as well-bred as those who colour over timidity with gentleness of manners, and as bravely sincere as those who take, or would have brutality taken for honesty ; but though his greatest freedom is polite,

* Secretary at War.

his greatest condescension is dignified with spirit ; and he can no more court his enemies, than relax in kindness to his friends. Yet though he has more spirit than almost any man living, it is never looked upon as flowing from the passions, by the intimate connection that it always preserves with his understanding. Yet his passions are very strong ; he loves play, women more, and one woman more than all. The amiableness of his behaviour to her, is only equalled by hers to him — But as your ladyship would not know a picture of this charming woman, when drawn with all her proper graceful virtues ; and as that engaging ignorance might lead you even into an uncertainty about the portrait of the gentleman, I shall lay down my pencil, and am,

“ Madam,

“ Your ladyship’s

“ most obedient

“ humble servant,

“ VANDYKE.”



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